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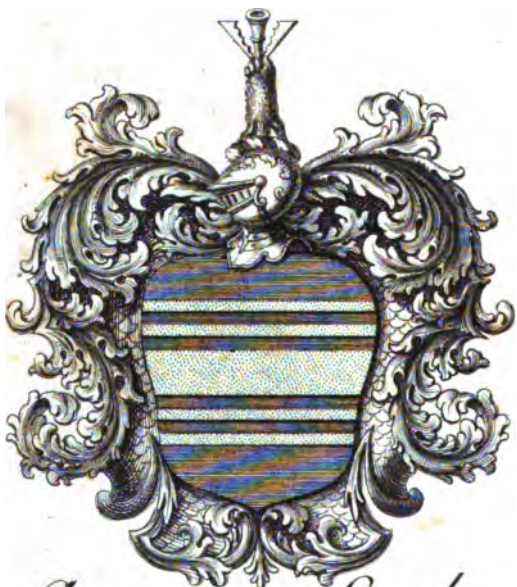

Augustine Earle
of Heydon
in the County of Norfolk Esq.r

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THE

# True Briton.

IN

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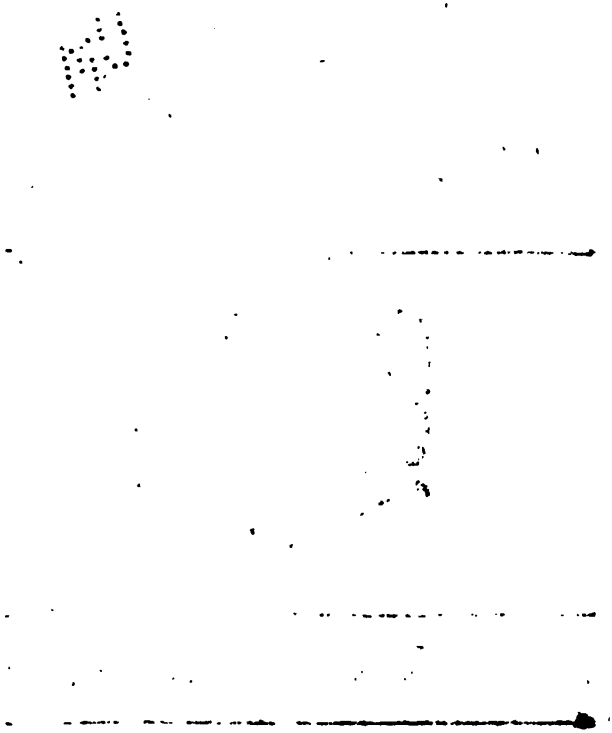

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THE

# PREFACE.

THE Reaſon which induces me to publiſh the following Papers at this Juncture, is, that Poſterity, as well as the preſent Age, may be able to judge, whether they were wrote with an Intent to ſerve or prejudice this Country.

No Perſon can prevent the Miſrepreſentations of Mankind; and we have frequently ſeen, that the greateſt Heroes and moſt able Miniſters that ever adorned a Kingdom, could not eſcape the Virulency of Scandal: It is, therefore, no Wonder, that the Malice of the World ſhould decypher a Deſire of doing Good, into a petulant Humour of doing Miſchief, and, according to their uſu-

*al Language, proclaim an uncorrupt and unbiaſs'd Behaviour to be the Effect of Paſſion and Diſappointments. Such Men judge of others by their own Maxims, and becauſe they have not themſelves the Courage and Reſolution of following the Dictates of Honour and Conſcience, eſteem it impoſſible to find that great, moral and particular Vertue in other Men.*

*All theſe terrible Effects of our inteſtine Diviſions ſhould animate every honeſt Mind to lay aſide thoſe Party Reſentments, which, in Time, muſt end in the Ruin of this Iſland.*

*If we conſider the Manner in which* Old Rome *loſt her Liberties, it will ſhew every Patriot how incumbent a Duty it is upon him to allay thoſe Heats and Animoſities which at preſent reign amongſt us.*

*The Civil Wars which at length overwhelmed the Liberties of that fam'd Republick, began by the Eagerneſs which Great Men ſhew'd for Power and Employments; ſeveral conſiderable Families, appearing divided, and ſpending vaſt Sums of Money in Elections, grew at length to be perſonally animated againſt each other; and when the moſt bitter Reflections, which they vented on all Occaſions, had made a Reconciliation between them impracticable, they mutually endea-*

*endeavoured by Force and Violence to ſupport their Pretenſions, which occaſion'd the Civil Wars.*

*The Train of Cruelties which continued ſo many Years amongſt them, and conſumed the greateſt and moſt daring Spirits of the Common-Wealth, at length ſo wearied the People of* Rome, *that they tamely ſubmitted to the Tyranny of one Man.——The Spirit of ſerving their Country was then exchanged for the Baſeneſs of flattering their Tyrant, and then aroſe that idle and effeminate Diſpoſition of Mind, which at preſent prevails in* Italy.

Tacitus *in his firſt Book of Annals, gives us ſo lively a Deſcription of the Expiration of the* Roman *Liberty, that I ſhall refer my Readers to him, and trouble 'em no more on this Subject.*

*I only mention'd this, to ſhew, that the firſt beginning of the Calamities of* Rome, *was, the Bribery that was introduced by ambitious Men, and practiced in all the Elections of Magiſtrates; and therefore I am ſure my Fellow-Countrymen will be very careful how they ſuffer ſo dangerous a Practice to take the leaſt Root in our Government;—for certainly, Men, who have a Deſire of ſerving their Country in Parliament, can have no View in being choſe, but the perform-*

*performing that great and commendable Duty.*

*In the different Diviſions that have diſtracted us for many Years, there have appeared Men of great Characters and diſtinguiſh'd Merit on both Sides; and for my Part, I think we ought to judge as charitably of our Cotemporaries as we do of our Anceſtors; and believe that there are many Men now living, who have ſincerely at Heart the true Intereſt of theſe Kingdoms.*

*I ſhall always make it my particular Buſineſs to direct all my Views to this great End, and if by that Means I can enjoy the Satisfaction of knowing, that, in my little Sphere, I have uſed my beſt Endeavours, according to my Capacity, for the Advancement of the Publick Good, I eſteem it far beyond accumulated Riches, and immenſe Treaſures without it; and hope, that as long as I continue to tread thoſe Paths with Spirit and Reſolution, I ſhall not loſe the Character of a* TRUE BRITON.

THE

# TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. I.

*Juſtum & tenacem propoſiti Virum,*
*Non civium ardor prava jubentium;*
*Non vultus inſtantis Tiranni*
*Mente quatit ſolida.* HOR.

MONDAY, JUNE 3. 1723.

THERE are ſo many Perſons, of all Stations, who aſſume to themſelves the Title affixed to the Head of this Paper, that I ſhall deſire the World to ſuſpend their Judgment of my Pretenſions to it, 'till they ſee whether in my Conduct there appears that Candour, Sincerity, and Love of LIBERTY, which are the diſtinguiſhing Characteriſticks of every TRUE BRITON.

THE Firſt eſſential Ingredient neceſſary to form a PATRIOT, is, *Impartiality*; For if a Perſon ſhall think himſelf bound by any other Rules but thoſe of his own Reaſon and Judgment, or obliged to follow the Dictates of Others, who ſhall appear the Heads of the Party he is ingaged in, he ſinks below the Dignity of a Human Creature, and voluntarily reſigns thoſe Guides which Nature has given him to direct him in all Spheres of Life.

THIS is but too much the Misfortune of the Country we live in; for let either *Whig* or *Tory*, when in Power, grow wanton in the Abuſe of it, or endeavour to maintain themſelves in the Enjoyment of it, by Illegal and Unwarrantable Meaſures; thoſe amongſt them, who, by the Influence of their Conſciences, ſhall be prevailed on to oppoſe ſuch Steps as they judge wicked and dangerous, are ſtiled by the leading Men of the Party they were engaged in, (and, conſequently, reputed by their numerous Train of *Sycophants* and *Followers*) *Deſerters of their Friends*, becauſe ſuch Honeſt Men refuſe to be, what they eſteem, *Betrayers of their Country*.

THE Coldneſs, and ſometimes Diſdain, which a Man governed thus by the Principles of Honour, generally meets with on ſuch Occaſions, from the Friends he has ever acted in Concert with for the former Part of his Life, are Conſiderations which but too often ſubdue the beſt-inclined Spirits, and prevail with them to be Paſſive and Obedient, rather than Active and Reſolute. But if ſuch Perſons could but once feel the Comfort and Pleaſure of having done their Duty,

Duty, they would meet with a ſufficient Reward within Themſelves, to overballance the *Loſs* of their *Friends*, or the *Malice* of their *Enemies*.

AMBITION and AVARICE are Two Vices which are directly oppoſite to the Character of a TRUE BRITON; For though an Increaſe of Power, or of Riches, may be the proper Reward of Honour and Merit, and the moſt Honeſt Stateſman, may, with Juſtice, accept of either: Yet, when the Mind is infected with a *Thirſt* after them, all Notions of Truth, Principle and Independency, are loſt in ſuch Minds, and, by growing Slaves to their own Paſſions, they become naturally ſubſervient to Thoſe who can indulge and gratify them.

THE many Examples which every Age can furniſh of the Miſchiefs which *Ambitious* and *Avaritious* Men have brought upon the Governments they have lived under; are obvious to all Mankind. In obſcure Perſons, theſe monſtrous Vices frequently lead thoſe that are poſſeſſed of them, into Miſchiefs and Villainy, and are often the Cauſes that have brought mean Offenders under the Hands of the Law. But whenever, for the Curſe of a Government, the Greateſt Stateſmen are endowed with theſe Springs of Corruption and Knavery, the unfortunate Subjects who live under their Influence, muſt fall Victims to ſatisfy their gluttonous Appetites, and the State they preſide in, will be treated by them, as if it were given by Providence into their Hands, to gratify their cruel and deſtructive Paſſions.

THESE Vices, when they are not ſtrong enough to work the Mind to Publick Knavery and Villainy, frequently throw Shackles on the Hearts of Men, who would otherwiſe act Uprightly, and reſtrain them from doing that which is warranted by Juſtice and Honeſty. How many Perſons has this Country produced, in former Times, who, convinced of the True Intereſt of *Great-Britain*, have avoided and declined to purſue it, for fear of loſing a little inconſiderable Imployment, no way ſuitable to their Ranks or Fortunes? Can there be a more melancholy Proſpect, than to ſee Men of the greateſt Abilities, Quality and Eſtates, make it their utmoſt Deſire, to be admitted *Tools* to a *Court*, where they ought to *preſide*, and make no other Uſe of the Advantages Heaven has given them, than to ſupport thoſe at the Helm in their Attempts to deſtroy the State? Neither do theſe miſguided Perſons conſider, That they muſt, of Courſe, be involved in the Common Ruin, and fall the Firſt, becauſe they are the Greateſt, Sacrifices to the *Ambition* and *Avarice* of Evil Miniſters.

OUR Age affords no living Inſtance of this Nature, ſuch is the Care, Juſtice and Reputation of our Governours, and the Independency of both Houſes of Parliament.

IN Publick Affairs, it is the Duty of every Man to be free from *Perſonal Prejudices*; Neither ought we to oppoſe any Step that is taking for the Good of our Country, purely becauſe thoſe that are the Contrivers and Adviſers of it, are obnoxious to us. There

There are but too many Precedents of this Nature, where Men have caſt the moſt Black Colours on the Wiſeſt of Adminiſtrations, becauſe thoſe that had the Direction of Affairs, were their Enemies in *Private Life*; and this ill Way of Judging, may be attended with dangerous Conſequences to the Common-Weal.

INTREPIDITY and FIRMNESS are Two Virtues which every TRUE BRITON muſt be Maſter of, or elſe all the other Talents he is poſſeſs'd of, are Uſeleſs and Barren.

A MAN may be Honeſt, Juſt, and Righteous; but if he is Fearful and Timorous, he will ſtagger when theſe great Qualities are moſt needful to be exerted for the Good of his Country, and he ſinks into a *Lukewarm Patriot*. Some Men of Integrity have been prevailed on to remain Quiet and Unactive, to avoid the Reflections caſt upon them by *Vulgar Tongues*, and the *Hackney Scribblers* of each Party. We have heard of conſiderable Men, in late Reigns, who have retired into the Country, and left the Power of Government in the Hands of Others, for fear, if they oppoſed the Meaſures then purſuing, they ſhould be branded with the Odious Names of *Jacobites* and *Diſaffected Perſons*. Such Men as theſe, who, though Honeſt in *Theory*, yet fear to be ſo in *Practice*, ſhould conſider, That of all the Duties which Nature firſt required, and Reveal'd Religion has ſince confirm'd, None is more ſtrong or more neceſſary, than That we owe to our Country. Whoever, therefore, when he has form'd a Judgment on any Subject relating to the Government, yet dreads to

declare it by his Actions in that Station of Life, where he is naturally call'd upon to do it, becomes, by his Inactivity, a Party to the very Meaſures his Reaſon blames, and his Conſcience condemns.

In *England* this Puſillanimity is more to be warded againſt, than in moſt other Countries; For whenever there has appeared an Ill-deſigning Miniſtry, one of their chief Views has been to traduce and terrify thoſe who have had the Courage to adhere inviolably to the Liberties of the Subject. This Method has been generally purſued, and the Situation of Affairs here, has always furniſhed the *Tools* of a Government with Means to oblige their *Maſters*, and obey their Commands in this Particular. When the *Tories* have been in Power, thoſe who did not give Supplies, or anſwer their Intentions, were inſtantly called, *Foes to the Church*, and *Republicans*: And the *Whigs* never fail to ſtile their Antagoniſts, *Foes to the State*, and *Jacobites*. But a Bold and Daring PATRIOT will ſcorn theſe little Slanders, nor ſuffer them to obſtruct his *Loyalty* and *Integrity*. Such a Perſon will weigh his Actions in the Scale of Reaſon and Juſtice; and when once they are agreeable to thoſe Principles, he will purſue his Courſe ſteadily, and, deſpiſing all his Enemies can ſay of his Behaviour, will not ſuffer their Malice to be a Protection to their Wickedneſs. Such a PATRIOT will propoſe no other Proſpect but the Publick Good of the Common-Wealth; and if, in the attaining of that Great End, by the Villainy of the Times, he ſhould fall a Martyr to his Country, he will, with Comfort, conſider, That he has anſwer'd the Will of his MAKER, who ſent him into

into the World to do Good; or dye, rather than not oppoſe Evil.

HERE might we go back into Hiſtory, and ſee, with what great Luſtre the Names of ſuch Heroes are deliver'd down to Poſterity; and how much more *They* are eſteemed who *periſh* in a Good Cauſe, than *Thoſe* who *triumph* in a Bad One. But this is unneceſſary at preſent: For our Co-Temporaries, eſpecially the Chief amongſt us, are all Friends to Juſtice; and no Man is injured in his *Liberty* or *Fortune*: Such is the Wiſdom and Integrity of the preſent Miniſters!

IT is incumbent on every Perſon who lives in a Common-Wealth, to promote the Welfare of it, as much as his Situation of Life will permit him; And, therefore, thoſe who act in a Little Sphere, ought to exert their Zeal with as much Sincerity, as thoſe of Greater Figure or Power. Such as can have no other Opportunities of publiſhing their Thoughts, but by communicating of them to the World in Print, wou'd be wanting in their Duty, ſhou'd they neglect taking that Method of informing their Fellow-Subjects of Matters, which perhaps, otherwiſe, might eſcape their Knowledge, tho' neceſſary for them to be acquainted with.

THE *Liberty of* SPEECH, in Parliament, is the Greateſt Jewel that adorns our Government, and frequently has put a Stop to the Deſigns of Bad Men, when they were attempting the Subverſion of the Conſtitution. It has, indeed, frequently been dangerous, and often deſtructive, to *Patriots* who have made the Beſt Uſe of it; but yet there have always been,

and I hope ever will be, in both Houſes, Men of Honour, Honeſty and Intrepidity, to imploy the Talents God has endowed them with, in the Service of their Country; and whom neither Hopes can tempt, or Fear deter from purſuing the Publick Good.

THE *Freedom of the* PRESS, is another Bulwark of our Liberty; and there needs no greater Argument to prove it, than the frequent Attempts that have been made to deſtroy it, under Pretence of Reſtraining of it. Wicked Men muſt naturally labour to have their Actions conceal'd, or, at leaſt, ſo publiſhed, that every Perſon ſhould credit the Gloſſes which they themſelves throw upon them; But the Judicious Part of Mankind will be inform'd of every Circumſtance before they peremptorily give an Opinion on any Matter whatſoever. In Civil Caſes, no Man's Word ought to be taken in his own Cauſe, nor when he attempts to juſtify an Action he is accuſed of; but all Parties muſt be heard before the Court can proceed to give Sentence: And therefore the People of *England* will, in Publick Matters, expect the ſame Uſage before they determine to Blame or Applaud any Action whatſoever, in which they are concern'd.

A Perſon who writes on *Political Subjects*, ought to be free from *Partiality*, and every other Vice which may ſway his Sentiments, or induce him to repreſent Matters in Falſe Lights; and, I hope, my Behaviour in the Sequel of this Work will convince the World, That my Only Intention in publiſhing theſe Sheets, is, To lay Truth open; and in ſuch a Manner, as becomes one who determines To Live and Dye a TRUE BRITON.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

## NUMB. II.

*Ubi militem donis, populum annona, cunctos dulcedine ocii pellexit; insurgere paulatim, munia senatus, magistratuum, legum in se trahere, nullo adversante; cum ferocissimi per acies aut proscriptione cecidissent: ceteri nobilium, quanto quis servitio promptior, opibus & honoribus extollerentur: ac novis ex rebus aucti, tuta & præsentia, quam vetera & periculosa mallent.* Tacit. Annal. I. Cap. 2.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7. 1723.

WHOSOEVER considers the Constitution of this Government, must esteem it a Blessing to live in a Country where the People must, by their Representatives, consent to the Laws by which they and their Posterity are bound; and where there is so just a Ballance between the Prerogative of the Crown, and the Liberty of the Subject.

THE

IF ever Sheriffs are nam'd by the Crown on Purpoſe to be ſerviceable in this Particular: If ever Money is iſſued out by the Treaſury to certain Perſons, for defraying the Expences of Elections; and ſuch Men ſucceed in their Bribery; Can a Houſe of Commons thus conſtituted, be ſaid to ſpeak the Senſe of the Nation? Or will they not, rather, be proper Tools to work the Deſtruction of it?

THE Second Clauſe I have mention'd, relates to the Freedom of Debates; and if an evil Miniſter ſhould ever, by Penſions and Places, corrupt the Minds of the Members, and intimidate them with the Loſs of their Imployments, if they inclin'd to oppoſe his Will in any one Inſtance, ſuch a Perſon may be properly ſaid, To impeach and queſtion the Freedom of Speech or Debates in Parliament in a Place out of Parliament.

THIS Manner of Inſlaving us, cannot be effected in our Time, there being ſo Glorious a Spirit in both Houſes for the Support of our preſent happy Eſtabliſhment: But it will be undoubted Ruin to all that is dear to us, whenever we ſee the Authority of a corrupt Parliament imploy'd to bring us under thoſe Misfortunes which we have hitherto ſav'd our ſelves from, at the Expence of ſo much Blood and Treaſure.

THE People will acquieſce under ſuch Grievances, becauſe the Forms of Government will be kept up, and whatever is aſſented to by Lords and Commons, will have the Appearance, as well as Force of Law; though both thoſe Bodies ſhould be as Servile and as Inconſiderable as the Senate and Aſſemblies of the

the People of *Rome* were, under the *Roman* Emperors.

THE Escape which this Kingdom has lately had from the Unnatural Conspiracy, has, I hope, sufficiently secured our Happiness; and the Harmony which appear'd through all Parts of the Kingdom for the Support of our present Government, at that Important Juncture, gives our Enemies no Room to expect better Success in any future Attempts.

HIS MAJESTY, at the Opening of the last Sessions, acquaints his Parliament with the Nature and Danger of the Plot. Both Houses, in the most Dutiful Manner, assure Him of their unalterable Zeal for his Government; and, as the First Proof of it, They suspend, for the Space of One Year, those Laws of Liberty, which are the Greatest Security the *British* Subjects can boast of.

THIS Action of the Legislature, was, undoubtedly, a singular Instance of the great Confidence the Parliament reposed in the King; And whether the Danger of the Plot did require such an Extraordinary Step to be taken, is referr'd to those who have read the *Reports* of both Houses.

THE Consequences of the Inquiry which was afterwards set on Foot, are, The Execution of Mr. *Layer*; the Banishment of the Bishop of *Rochester*; and the Imprisonment for Life of *Plunket* and *Kelly*. These Three last Persons received their Sentences by the Legislative Authority; and the Power of Parliament interposed to supply the Defect of Legal Evidence.

IT

THE Power of the Crown may certainly pardon Criminals. I ſhall not trouble my Readers any more on this Head; But only repeat another Clauſe of the Declaration of Right, which ſays, *That the pretended Power of Suſpending of Laws, or the Execution of Laws, by Regal Authority, without Conſent of Parliament, is Illegal.*

THE Power of Pardoning is expreſly taken away from the King in the Caſe of the Biſhop of *Rocheſter*. And what a Misfortune it is to that Prelate to be debarred from receiving the Effects of His Majeſty's Merciful Diſpoſition, is now viſibly apparent; Since others, who have been more deeply ingaged in Wicked Meaſures, than the Biſhop is even pretended to have been, and who have juſtified the Sentence of the Law by their Behaviour after they fled from their Country, are taſting the Sweets of the Royal Clemency.

THE KING can, by his Prerogative, diſcharge even *Plunket*, who appears concerned in the Blackeſt Part of the Plot, from that Impriſonment which is the Puniſhment of his Crime: But he cannot, without the Conſent of Parliament, permit the Biſhop of *Rocheſter* to return Home, and end the Remnant of a declining Life in the Country where he was born and educated.

THE Juſtice of theſe Proceedings by Bills of this Nature, and the Rigor of the Penalties inflicted by them, are only to be ſupported by the *Strength of the Evidence* that induced the Legiſlature to enact Perſons Guilty in this Extraordinary Manner.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. III.

*Accipe nunc Danaum inſidias.* —— VIRG.

MONDAY, JUNE 10. 1723.

THE Good and Juſt Laws which have been made ſince His Majeſty's Acceſſion to the Throne, for the Preſervation of our Religion and Liberties, juſtly claim the Grateful Thanks of every *True Briton*.

THE Diſaffected Part of the Kingdom have maliciouſly endeavoured to fill the Minds of the People with Fears and Jealouſies, that ſome of the Steps taken by the Legiſlature, might tend to weaken the Foundation of our Government; but the Arguments urged in Vindication of moſt of theſe new-made Laws, *viz.* The *Neceſſity of Affairs*, and the *Publick Danger*, have certainly their proper Effect to ſtop ſuch idle Rumours. His Majeſty, and his Family,

came hither to defend and protect our Religious and Civil Rights, and have inviolably purſued that Great End with Steadineſs and Reſolution.

THE Firſt Care of the Miniſtry, at the Beginning of the preſent Reign, was, To puniſh thoſe who had prevailed on Her Late Majeſty to frown upon the *Whigs*, and to remove them from the Imployments which they injoyed under Her; But Severity ſoon diſappeared, and this Government ſo far approved of the Choice then made by the Queen, that the Noble Lord that was her Chancellor, is now one of the Regents; and He, who was Secretary of State, is pardoned, though under an Attainder, and is returning Home to exerciſe his Great Talents, for the Support and Defence of the preſent Adminiſtration.

IT is certain, that the *Mercy* and *Clemency* of our Great Men have been the *only* Motives that have induced them to ſhew theſe Marks of Favour and Tenderneſs to their *Predeceſſors*. Neither can it be ſuggeſted, That this Laſt Charitable Step is taken, to remove the Precedent of a Prime Miniſter's being Attainted, for giving ſuch Counſel as the Nation, by its Repreſentatives, judged deſtructive to the Publick Welfare.

THE *Septennial Act* is freſh in every Man's Memory. *Frequent Parliaments* were ever look'd upon as the Greateſt Defence of the Liberty of the Subject; and the *Triennial Law* was eſteemed one of the moſt eſſential Advantages gained by the *Revolution*. But the *Neceſſity of Affairs* forced the Laſt Parliament, in their Second Seſſions, to continue Themſelves, and eſtabliſh

eſtabliſh a Precedent which may hereafter point out, to ſome *Future Miniſtry*, a Method of keeping together a Houſe of Commons compoſed of their Creatures and Penſioners, 'till they have deſtroyed and overturned the Conſtitution. The Danger apprehended from the Pretender and his Adherents, forced the Legiſlature into this Meaſure, however it might be repreſented by our Enemies as unjuſtifiable, for a Set of Men, intruſted by the Kingdom for *Three Years only*, to prolong their Truſt for *Four Years*, without the Conſent of their Principals.

THE *Riot Act* is an eſſential Security to this Government, and was made neceſſary to defend us from the Attempts of our Enemies. By this Law, if a Number of Perſons exceeding Twelve, ſhall be aſſembled together, any Juſtice of the Peace is Authorized to read a Proclamation, and, in caſe they ſhould not diſperſe within two Hours, they are all Guilty of Felony, without Benefit of the Clergy. The Execution of this Law is veſted in the Magiſtrates who are appointed by the Crown, and may be, if abuſed, attended with great Inconveniencies. There is one Inſtance which at preſent occurs to me, wherein this Act has done ſingular Service to the Publick. In the late Times of Confuſion, occaſioned by the Fall of *South-Sea-Stock*, ſeveral of the *Annuitants* were aſſembled in a Publick Hall of the City to conſider of the beſt Meaſures they could purſue to relieve themſelves and Families from Apparent Ruin, and a Sheriff of *London* came into the Midſt of them to read the Proclamation, and to diſperſe theſe Unfortunate Perſons. The Late King *James*, when in *Ireland*, made an Order of the like Nature, to pre-

vent the Meeting of Proteſtants: And had ſuch a Law been in Force in *England* before the Year 1688, it would have made the *Revolution* more difficult than the Providence of God permitted it to be.

STANDING ARMIES have ever frightened all the Friends of Liberty; and it is Illegal to keep an extraordinary Number of Men on Foot, in Time of Peace, without the Conſent of Parliament. After the Treaty of *Ryſwich*, His Late Majeſty King WILLIAM was forced to Caſhier his Troops, though in Times of Danger. And this was done when *Lewis* the XIV. was living, who had the Power, as well as Inclination, to diſtreſs us. Queen ANNE, to the Glory of her Adminiſtration, as ſoon as She had concluded the Peace of *Utrecht*, removed all the Jealouſies which Her Subjects might have entertained, had She kept her Army together, and, without expecting the Remonſtrances of Parliament, voluntarily disbanded it.

AT preſent, the Conſpiracies that have been formed by our Inteſtine Enemies, have induc'd the Legiſlature to permit a Body of Troops to be maintained; which, were there an Inclination in the Miniſters to commit Acts of Violence and Oppreſſion, would be able to ſupport and defend them againſt all Attempts that might be made to bring them to Juſtice. The Manner in which they are ſubjected to Martial Law, gives great Power to the commanding Officers, who are Maſters of the Lives of every Common Soldier, and is more than neceſſary to give ſuch Officers proper Authority over their reſpective Corps. That ſuch a Number of Subjects ſhould not have the Benefit of being

being try'd by their Peers, ſounds harſhly to a *Britiſh* Ear.

THE Troops which we now have, are Neceſſary for our Security; and we ought to thank both Houſes, for their Zealous Manner of eſtabliſhing them. But if hereafter it ſhould be endeavour'd, by any Wicked Adminiſtration, to overturn the Government, they never would want a Standing Force to ſupport them in their Attempts, if once they could bribe a Majority in the Parliament. And an Army thus Legally kept on Foot in the Hands of ſuch Evil Counſellors, would not be leſs dangerous to the Conſtitution becauſe it was eſtabliſhed by the Legiſlature: The People would acquieſce, and think themſelves ſafe, when they ſhould be told, the Commons had aſſented to it; and little would they imagine, That a Miniſtry, at the Head of a Majority in both Houſes, could never act Illegally, becauſe they would make every Thing Law that their *Ambition* or *Avarice* ſhould prompt them to.

OUR Factions *Within*, are the only Reaſons for the Maintaining the preſent Army: For our Affairs *Abroad* are in ſo flouriſhing a Condition, that a General Peace wants nothing but the Forms of a Congreſs, and the Princes and States in Alliance with us, have given the greateſt Proofs of their ſincere Wiſhes for our Proſperity, by diſcovering to his Majeſty the Helliſh and Dangerous Plot that has lately been ſo Happily and ſo Artfully prevented.

THE frequent Suſpenſion of the *Habeas Corpus Act*, has been abſolutely neceſſary from Time to

Time, to enable His Majeſty to ſecure ſuch Perſons as He ſhould ſuſpect were carrying on Conſpiracies againſt His Royal Family, and, conſequently, againſt the Welfare of the Kingdom.

THE Manner in which the Time of Suſpenſion has been increas'd by Degrees, is to be juſtified by the Nature and Danger of the ſeveral Plots; and at preſent the Subjects are to be debarr'd for a Twelvemonth of the Benefit of that Excellent Law, becauſe of the Unnatural and Wicked Scheme form'd by *Layer*, *Nayme*, and his Accomplices.

THIS Power veſted in the Crown for the Publick Security, may, if unjuſtly executed, prove the Ruin of many Faithful and Honeſt *Britons*; But there is not one Inſtance in which the preſent Miniſters have exerted it to any other Purpoſe but that for which it was intended.

THE Lords and other Gentlemen who were in the *Tower*, are admitted to Bail, after a long Confinement; and it is not to be doubted, but that when this was done, the Clauſe of the Declaration of Right, met with the greateſt Regard, which ſays, *That exceſſive Bail ought not to be required; nor exceſſive Fines impos'd; nor cruel and unuſual Puniſhments inflicted.*

IF, hereafter, a corrupt and Wicked Adminiſtration ſhould intend the Subverſion of the State, and find it neceſſary to remove all thoſe Patriots who appear'd the moſt Zealous Aſſertors of Liberty, the Manner in which they would indeavour to work the

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Deſtruction of ſuch *True Britons*, would be, I fear, rendred moſt eaſy and practicable, if they could, by forming of a *Sham-Plot*, perſuade the Legiſlature, it was neceſſary to intruſt them with ſuch an unlimitted Power.

A Parliament willing to be ſubſervient to a Court, would not require Proofs to be made of a Conſpiracy; but, on the ſingle Word of the Miniſters, would chearfully do all that ſhould be aſked of them; and it would certainly be in the Power of ſuch a Parliament, *To offer up the Laws, Rights, and Liberties of the whole Nation, to the King, to be diſpoſed of by Him Arbitrarily, and at his Pleaſure, and expreſly contrary to Laws enacted for the Security of the Subjects.* When once they had ſtrengthned their Hands with ſuch a Law, then they would Apprehend thoſe who were the moſt obnoxious to them, and Confine them in the moſt barbarous Manner, without ſhewing the leaſt Regard to Decency or Humanity.

IN order to procure Evidence to convict ſuch Unfortunate Men of Treaſon, they would have Recourſe to *Bribery*, which will always be the great Engine of Tyranny. Proper Tools would be ſet to work, to find Men of convenient Principles for the attaining this wicked End, which would be ſtil'd, *Doing of Juſtice to an injur'd Nation*; And if any ſuch cruel Inſtruments of Deſpotick Power ſhould in the leaſt relent, or decline Swearing away the Lives of Innocent Perſons, they themſelves would be expos'd to the greateſt Hazard. It would be dangerous for ſuch Men to live, who could relate the Particulars of

ſo black a Tranſaction; and there never would be wanting Means effectually to ſtop their Mouths.

IF ſuch an unhappy Wretch ſhould interrupt the Scheme laid for Deſtruction and Murder, all thoſe to whom he poſſibly could relate his Misfortunes, would be detained in the ſtricteſt Cuſtody, and almoſt ſtarv'd to Death, by *feeding on the Offals of a Meſſenger's Table*. Hopes would be given to induce them, and Fears would be inſinuated, to frighten them, into the Meaſures of ſuch an Adminiſtration, or, if that ſhould fail, into Silence. But if they remain'd determined to declare the Truth, they would be repreſented as if they were Partners in the *Invented Plot*, though there ſhould not appear the leaſt Colour of a Suſpicion againſt them. They would be kept cloſe Priſoners, and even Pen, Ink, and Paper would be denied them, that they might not communicate their Miſeries and Innocence to the World. If any amongſt them ſhould be thought moſt capable of making what would be called a *farther Diſcovery*, he would be loaded with Irons, and by that Means, they would endeavour to Rack him, 'till he ſhould ſpeak a Language agreeable to their Inclination. If they ſhould have any greater Power over the Life of a Man, than what is before mentioned, all *that* would be exerted in the moſt violent and remarkable Manner, to oblige him to declare Things he never knew, and ſwear againſt Perſons he ſcarce ever ſaw. Thus might the Greateſt and Beſt Men in the Kingdom (if ever we ſhould ſee ſuch a Government) fall Victims to their Country by the Proſcription of a Cruel and Mercileſs *Triumvirate*. But this is a Proſpect as Diſtant as it is Horrid, and our Preſent Miniſters exert

their

their Juſtice for the Good of their Country, and render it more Amiable, by tempering of it with Mercy.

THE fatal Inſtances *England* can produce of the Barbarity of former Reigns, muſt certainly ſhew clearly the great Bleſſings we enjoy under His preſent Majeſty and His Wiſe Adminiſtration. The Caſes of *Ruſſel* and *Sidney* are freſh in every Man's Memory; and the latter was convicted on Similitude of Hands: Such was the Violence of the Times againſt him. His Attainder was afterwards Revers'd, and one of the Cauſes aſſign'd for the Obliterating of it, is, The Nature of the Evidence on which he was condemn'd.

OUR Country is Famous for having maintain'd their Liberties, whilſt moſt of our Neighbours were loſing of theirs; and the Reaſon that has given us this great Advantage over the reſt of *Europe*, is, That the Limits impos'd on the Crown, were inviolably maintain'd and defended by Authority of Parliament: And we may be ſecure of tranſmitting theſe Bleſſings to future Ages, whilſt there ſhall remain the ſame Steadineſs and Reſolution in thoſe who are the proper Guardians of our Religion and Laws.

THE Execution of the Regal Authority, in the Abſence of his Majeſty, is lodged in our Fellow Subjects; and though his Majeſty might ſafely be intruſted with all Kind of Power, yet it would frighten the Minds of People, to ſee it devolved into other Hands. But the Honeſty and Integrity of thoſe who are nominated for this Great Truſt, diſſipate all Apprehenſions of the Abuſe of it.

THE

THE *Act of Limitations* has been thought Eſſential for the Security of the Subject; but the Neceſſity of Affairs obliged the Parliament to permit his Majeſty to viſit His *German* Dominions, whenever he ſhould ſee Occaſion; which was done by Repealing a Clauſe in that Glorious Law. This Step was highly Reaſonable, and the People will not have Cauſe to repent this Conceſſion; for the King will never leave this Kingdom, but when his going into *Germany* will contribute to the Benefit and Advantage of *Great-Britain*, by ſettling the Affairs of the *North*, where His Royal Preſence muſt bear the greateſt Sway.

THE *South-Sea* Tranſaction, which was alſo thought neceſſary to diſcharge Part of the Publick Debt; and the Means ſince taken to reſtore the Publick Credit, are Subjects, which, in ſome future Papers, I ſhall give my Thoughts upon.

I HAVE gone through moſt of theſe new Laws which have been made ſince his Majeſty's Acceſſion to the Throne, and hope every *Briton* will agree with me in my Sentiments of the Laws themſelves; of Thoſe who contriv'd them; and of thoſe who gave their Votes for the Paſſing of them in either Houſe of Parliament.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

## NUMB. IV.

*Trojanas ut Opes, & lamentabile Regnum*
*Eruerint Danai* —— VIRG.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14. 1723.

THE Situation of our Affairs Abroad, muſt, of Neceſſity, require our Conſideration, when we reflect on the great Increaſe of our National Debt, ſince His Majeſty's Acceſſion to the Throne.

HAPPY had it been for this Kingdom, if we had follow'd the Example of our Neighbouring Nations, and made Uſe of the Opportunities which Peace and Tranquility have given us, to diſcharge ourſelves of a Burthen which grows every Year more heavy, and muſt at length inevitably overwhelm us.

*GREAT*

*GREAT BRITAIN* will always labour under this great Misfortune, unleſs it once could be effected, that the Expences of each Year ſhould not exceed the Money given by Parliament for the Service of ſuch Year; for though, in order to pleaſe the Country and flatter the Populace, our Taxes may be decreas'd, yet it frequently happens, that when, the Year following, the Deficiencies of the Funds are to be made good, the Kingdom will find, That if they imagine the Publick Expences are leſſen'd proportionably to the Taxes, they are groſly miſled and deceived. We may often expend Three Shillings in the Pound, when only Two are levied: but then an After-Reckoning comes, and the Whole muſt be paid with Intereſt.

THE Two *viſible* Points that have contributed to this great Increaſe of our Debts, are, The *Mediterranean* and *Baltick* Squadrons; and if our Fleets have carried Terror to thoſe different Parts of the World, yet, I may ſay, Our Honour and Glory have coſt us dear.

THE Union between *France* and *Spain*, was eſteemed dangerous and fatal to the Liberties of *Europe*. The War that was happily ended by the Treaty of *Utrecht*, was undertaken to prevent the Miſchiefs that might enſue, if a Prince of the Houſe of *Bourbon* was to ſway the *Spaniſh* Sceptre. Soon after the Death of *Lewis* XIV. the Intereſt of the Regent and King *Philip* began to claſh; and we had a Proſpect of ſeeing thoſe Two great Powers ſo effectually diſunited, that they would have been ingaged in a bloody

bloody and fatal War, whilſt we might have been thinking of repairing the Loſſes we had ſuſtained in the late Queen's Time, by maintaining ſuch great Fleets and Armies, whilſt other States in Alliance with us, prov'd defective in the *Quota's* which by Treaties they were oblig'd to furniſh.

*FRANCE* and *England* are as natural Enemies, as *Old Rome* and *Carthage* were, and the Power of the former can never be increas'd with Safety to the latter; and though particular Perſons in both Kingdoms may believe their private Intereſt the ſame, yet the Publick Views of the Two Nations muſt be different.

HOWEVER, when it was thought for the Benefit of *Great Britain* to take a Part in this Diſpute, we judged it moſt neceſſary for us to joyn with *France*, and thus to aſſiſt the Strongeſt Side againſt the Weakeſt; which was the only Way of forcing *Spain* to become ſubſervient to the *Regent's* Pleaſure.

WE did not conſider the Benefit of our Trade, when we Proclaimed War with the *Spaniards*; for it is undeniable, That we might have received great Advantages in it from them; whereas by this Rupture, a fatal Blow was given to the *Levant* and *South-Sea* Trade.

THE King of *Spain* was induc'd to harbour the *Pretender* and his Adherents, which we might expect would be the Return he would make us, for entring into the Meaſures of the Regent and the Emperor;

but

but no Perſon can believe, that he would not have abandon'd the *Jacobite* Intereſt, to purchaſe even our Neutrality on that Occaſion.

WHEN the War was ended, which put the Publick to ſo great an Expence, and ruin'd ſeveral of our Merchants who were concerned in thoſe Branches of Trade which were then interrupted; the only Advantages we obtain'd were, *Sicily* for the Emperor, a Re-eſtabliſhment of our Commerce on the ſame Foot it was before the Rupture, and the *Pretender's* being removed from *Spain*: And theſe were the Benefits we reap'd from our Sea-Triumphs near *Sicily*, and our Land Conqueſts at *Vigo*.

THE Emperor's Gratitude to us for this and former Favours, is Remarkable; for he refuſed to deliver up the great Offender Mr. *Knight*, to that very Parliament by whoſe chearful Aſſiſtance His Majeſty was enabled to preſent him with *Sicily*; and the *Eaſt-India* Company at *Oſtend*, form'd by his Letters Patents, will inevitably ruin our Commerce to thoſe Parts. Nay, to carry on this laſt Project, he invites and incourages the Subjects of *Great Britain* to withdraw from their Country, and makes the Ships ſent under his Colours and Protection into the *Eaſt*, Receptacles for the Offenders which have eſcaped from the Juſtice of our Laws.

ONE great Reaſon inſiſted upon to juſtify the ingaging in this War, was, The Danger there was of permitting *Spain* to be Maſter of *Sicily* and *Naples*; but whoſoever will conſider the great Power of the Em-

Emperor, will ſoon ſee, that *Spain*, though ſupported by theſe Additions of Strength, could never be able to ingage with his Imperial Majeſty or *France*; and the particular Advantage which *Great Britain* was ſaid to receive by the Deſtruction of the *Spaniſh* Fleet, was fruſtrated, when on the Peace, all the Ships which we had taken from them, were reſtor'd; ſo that their Naval Power is ſtill as conſiderable as ever.

ONE Circumſtance in the Affairs of *Europe* at that Time, muſt convince every impartial Perſon, that the Attempts of the *Spaniards* were not very Formidable; ſince the *Dutch*, who, of all other States in *Europe*, ought to be moſt jealous of His Catholick Majeſty's Increaſe of Dominion, thought proper to remain Neuter at that important Juncture, and refus'd to ingage in a War where they eſteem'd themſelves unconcern'd.

IMMEDIATELY after the Peace, which ſtill wants the Forms of a Congreſs to make it General, the Crowns of *France* and *Spain* became ſo thoroughly united by the Inter-Marriages which ſoon enſued, that what we apprehended is now come to paſs; and as their reſpective Intereſts muſt be ever the ſame, they are as Formidable as if they were govern'd by one and the ſame King.

THE many Squadrons ſent to the *Baltick*, have alſo conſiderably increaſed the National Debt; and there does not as yet appear, that *Great Britain* is to receive any Benefit from the ſending our Fleets into that Part of the World.

OUR

OUR firſt interpoſing in the Northern Affairs was to aſſiſt *Denmark* againſt the late King of *Sweden*; and we had paid too dear for entring into thoſe Meaſures, had not the Providence of God terminated the Life of that Great and Unfortunate Prince.

THE Pretence taken for involving this Kingdom into ſo great an Expence, and where there did not appear any viſible Advantage which was to accrue to us from it, was, The detaining ſome of our Merchant-Ships in the Ports of *Sweden*: But, upon Enquiry, it will be found, that no Veſſel was ſtopt, but what was carrying Ammunition or Proviſions to thoſe Countries with which *Sweden* was then in actual War; and this is no more than what is warranted by the Laws of Nations, and what was done by us to the *Swedes* themſelves during the War with *France*.

WE ſoon chang'd our Manner of Acting, and became Allies to the very Kingdom which we had before Diſtreſs'd. By this we provok'd the Czar, and hazarded the Loſs of our *Ruſſia* Trade, which muſt be allow'd to be an advantageous Branch of our Commerce.

THERE was no *apparent* Reaſon for theſe different Motions: But ſuch was the Gratitude of the Princes for whoſe ſake they were made, that the King of *Denmark*, in Return for the Fleet ſent to his Aſſiſtance, gave his Majeſty, as Elector of *Hanover*, Poſſeſſion of the Countries of *Bremen* and *Ferden*; and the preſent King of *Sweden* has ſince beſtowed upon

upon His Majesty the Legal Right to those Dominions.

IT is a vile and false Insinuation, that the Disaffected Party amongst us would make, that the obtaining and securing those Additions to the Electorate of *Hanover*, have been the secret Springs that have govern'd and directed our Behaviour in all Foreign Affairs. These Persons would endeavour to persuade us, That even the Court which we pay the Emperor, is to induce him to grant the Investiture of them; and that some Scruples on that Head have retarded the Forms of a Congress at *Cambray*. But this cannot be true; for one express Clause in the Act of Limitations, forbids our being ingag'd in any War on Account of His Majesty's *German* Dominions.

THE Consequence of the King's being Master of those Countries, must be agreeable to every Loyal Subject; since, in Case of any intestine Commotion, the *Hanover* Troops may, in few Hours, be transported hither from the Port of *Harbourg*, which is conveniently situated for that Purpose.

THE melancholy Situation of our Publick Credit has been, in great measure, owing to the Increase of our Debt; and all those who are concern'd in the Funds, must be uneasy when they see such new Loads brought upon us, which will not easily be discharged.

MINISTERS generally act in this Particular, as if their only Business was to contract Debts, and raise Money, and then leave to their Successors the

Intereſt, and who refuſe Riches and Honours when they have the Means of obtaining Both.

THAT Miniſter is a Bleſſing to the Country where he preſides, who acts with Impartiality and Honour in the Station where the Favour of the Crown has plac'd him; and when it ſhall pleaſe Almighty God to take him from this World, leaves no accumulated Fortune behind him, which may remain a Monument of the Publick Robberies he muſt have committed to gain ſuch immenſe Treaſure during the Time of His Adminiſtration. Of this Great Quality, the Earls of *Godolphin* and *Stanhope* are recent Examples, who both were at the Head of the Treaſury, and yet ſcarce died out of Debt.

A KINGDOM muſt not expect any Relief from their Burthens, whenever they ſee thoſe who are to give it, heaping all the Riches together, which defrauding the Publick, and cheating their Maſter, can enable them to do; The more Money comes into their Hands, the more they ſhall be able to put in their private Purſes, and the ſingle Care of advancing their own Intereſt, will make them endeavour the Deſtruction of the State. The getting an immenſe Eſtate in a little Time, without any viſible Manner in which it was gain'd, was one of the Articles of Impeachment againſt the Earl of *Clarendon*; and if ever convincing Evidence is to ſupply the Place of Law, it muſt be, when Pains and Penalties are to be inflicted on a Perſon concern'd in the Publick Revenues, whoſe great and ſudden Wealth is an undoubted and ſufficient Proof of his Crimes.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

## NUMB. V.

*Tutius eſt fictis igitur contendere verbis.* OVID.

MONDAY, JUNE 17. 1723.

THE firſt Bill of Pains and Penalties which was the Effect of the Zeal that appeared in both Houſes of Parliament for the Welfare of their Country, was that which Impriſons *John Plunket* for Life, and takes away from him his Goods and Chattels.

THO' the Interpoſition of the Legiſlature may be neceſſary in Extraordinary Caſes, and where the Perſon accus'd is of ſuch Conſequence, that it might be dangerous to ſuffer him to live amongſt us, when it is apparent his Power might enable him, and his Inclination muſt lead him to effect the Deſtruction of our Government; yet I would obſerve, That all the Security we have gained by introducing ſuch an Extra-

traordinary Method of Proceeding by Bill, is, That we now may remain free from thoſe Fears which we naturally muſt have had, if *Plunket* had kept his Liberty or Eſtate.

THIS Man's Behaviour during the Courſe of his Tryal, betrays him to be a Perſon of mean Capacity, and more fit to ſent be to a Madhouſe, than confin'd as a Formidable Enemy to the Common-wealth.

ONE Reaſon which is given to convince the World of his Credit with the *Jacobite Party*, is, The Correſpondence which appears in the *Appendix* to the *Report* of the Commons, to have been between him and the Duke of *Berwick*: But, whoever will conſider the Subſtance of thoſe Papers, muſt remark, That the Contents of the Letters from the Duke, only mention the Receipt of Intelligence which this *Plunket* had ſent him. Every Body muſt know, That the Court of *St. Germains* would be glad of employing any buſy medling News-Monger to tranſmit to them Accounts of what was tranſacting in *England*: but there is nothing can induce any reaſonable Perſon to believe, he was made uſe of to any other Purpoſe, or intruſted with the tranſacting of Treaſon.

THE Part which he is pretended to have acted in the late Conſpiracy, ſeems very extraordinary, and the abſurd Inſinuations made by him, in many Inſtances, muſt convince every impartial Body, that he poſſibly could not be privy to any Real Plot, or he never would have ſuggeſted Perſons to be well affected to the Pretender's Intereſt, who are ty'd by the Principles

ciples of Gratitude, Juſtice and Loyalty, to the King, and the Support of His Adminiſtration.

IN the foul Draught of a Letter found amongſt *Layer*'s Papers, which is mark'd *B* 22 in the *Appendix*, and was proved to be *Plunket*'s Hand by the poſitive Oath of a Witneſs who us'd frequently to copy for him, he has the Impudence to affirm, That he had Four Letters from *Andiron*, which is the Cant Name made uſe of to denote Count *Bothmer*; and that thoſe Letters were ſent to Mr. *Joſeph*, which is the Title he frequently gives the Pretender.

HE ſays, Theſe Letters will improve to the Pretender's Advantage; and that if the Schemes laid down in them, were purſued, His Majeſty might, in a ſhort Time, be dethron'd.

IT is morally impoſſible to ſuppoſe, that a Perſon of Count *Bothmer*'s Integrity and Honour, ſhould be ſo deluded, as to enter into a Conſpiracy againſt the Beſt of Princes: And tho' no one doubts the Loyalty and Gratitude of that Miniſter, yet it muſt be confeſs'd, that a Publick Juſtification, at ſo critical a Juncture, would have tended very much to the Credit of the Count, and the Pleaſure of the King, who is certainly acquainted with the moſt minute Circumſtances of this Inquiry.

IN another Letter marked *C* 41, he would have it believed by the Pretender himſelf, that the *Whigs*, as well as *Tories*, were inclined to ſerve him: But this is ſo repugnant to the Principles of thoſe Gentlemen, that it is monſtrous to ſuppoſe, that they ever will

depart from our preſent happy Eſtabliſhment; and tho' they may frequently make too free with the Liberties of their Country, yet they think they may diſpoſe of thoſe Bleſſings which they themſelves purchas'd and maintain'd.

IN another of his Letters, *C* 51, he is ſo malicious as to declare, He is ſatisfy'd our Miniſtry would joyn with the Conſpirators in proper Meaſures. But this is an Accuſation againſt them, which is apparently Falſe and Groundleſs.

IN *C* 59, he acquaints his Correſpondent, That he now and then received Hints from the *Germans*: But it is impoſſible to imagine, that theſe People could be ſo deluded as to give any Intelligence to this Perſon of what was doing at Court, or what would be of Prejudice to the King's Intereſt. They have met with ſuch kind Treatment here, that the *Engliſh* are no longer accus'd of wanting Civility and Reſpect for Foreigners; and this Part, which they are charg'd with having acted, would be an ungrateful and unnatural Return. In the ſame Letter he arraigns the Wiſdom and Integrity of Two Chief Miniſters; and this laſt Suggeſtion betrays his Ignorance as well as his Malice.

HE has the Inſolence of preſuming that the Czar's coming with an Army to *Hanover*, might ſhake that Remarkable Steadineſs which His Majeſty has ſhewn for the maintaining his undoubted Title to the Crown of this Realm. But,

IN another Place, *C* 60, he avers, That the *Germans* are indifferent how ſoon they return into their own

own Country: For, says he, they are for getting what they can, and don't care for staying longer than they are getting, and being in a Condition to serve themselves. But can this be believ'd, when it is apparent, that no Foreigner has had an Imployment under the King? Neither have any Titles of Honour been bestowed on any *Germans*, contrary to the true Meaning of the Act of Settlement.

IN *C* 64, he carries his Insinuations much higher, and suggests, That even the Great Man who chuses to *deserve* Honours rather than *receive* them, would give little Opposition to the Pretender's Measures. But this is so foreign from Truth, and so contrary to the whole Series of that Gentleman's Life, that it were taking up the Time of my Readers unnecessarily, to expose the Falshood and Villainy of such an Assertion.

THERE appears nothing throughout the whole Series of *Plunket*'s Correspondence, which can be supposed, or even decypher'd to affect the Bishop of *Rochester* or Mr. *Kelly*; And if there had been one Single Point in any of these Letters that could convince the World this mean Offender esteem'd the Prelate as Zealous in the Pretender's Interest, as he represents Count *Bothmer* and the *Germans* to be, I dare affirm, it would have been a Circumstance produced by those who favour'd the Deprivation of the Bishop.

THE General Character which the World conceives of Particular Men, ought not to be an Argument in a Court of Justice for the Condemning or Acquitting of any Person; and yet we see some People who

who are mentioned in theſe Treaſonable Letters eſcape the Inquiry of Parliament, merely becauſe Common Fame eſteems them Innocent.

HOWEVER inconſiderable, both as to his Rank and Fortune, this Man was, if Juſtice and Rigour were to have been the Rules by which Perſons were determin'd to act, the common Forms of Law were open to bring this Criminal to condign Puniſhment; and the Courſe of Juſtice need not have been turn'd out of its wonted Channel. There was one Poſitive Evidence of High Treaſon againſt him, and the Letter taken upon him from the Pretender, did amount to another Overt-Act, upon which a Jury might find him Guilty according to the ſtricteſt Rules of *Weſtminſter-Hall.*

WHEN this Fellow was brought to oppoſe the Bill that was paſſing againſt him, he had no Council to aſſiſt him in the making his Defence, which he himſelf was wholly uncapable of; but the Conſequence of bringing him to receive his Doom before the Others ſuppos'd to be concern'd, was, The admitting thoſe Rules of Evidence in his Caſe, which proved afterwards Fatal to the Biſhop of *Rocheſter* and *Kelly*: As one of the chief Reaſons for the allowing of theſe Extraordinary Methods, was, That they had allow'd them in the Caſe of *Plunket*, where Weakneſs and Inability render'd him a proper Perſon to go firſt, and eſtabliſh the Precedent.

BILLS of Attainder ought to be kept as the laſt Reſources for the bringing ſuch Men to Juſtice, who have been Guilty of committing Treaſon againſt the People. This is a Black Crime, and may be compaſs'd

paſs'd with great Security; particularly, if the Power of Parliaments had been violated to Skreen and Support ſuch wicked Men, when they had the Diſtribution of Money and Power. This is a kind of Treaſon which ſhall be the Subject of ſome future Paper, and juſtly deſerves the Attention of every *True Briton*.

ALL Men are bound to forward Juſtice in their ſeveral Stations; and particularly if ever the Inclination of our Governors ſhould lead them to make that Evidence ſufficient for the Condemnation of a Fellow-Subject, which would be rejected were it brought to affect the moſt inconſiderable Property of the Kingdom.

THOSE in Parliament have great Opportunities of diſtinguiſhing their Zeal for the Good of their Country; and thoſe who are Without-Doors ſhould do their Duty by ſupporting ſuch Patriots, and acting in Concert with them. The City of *London* have it always in their Power to be Formidable to a Court; and the Great Earl of *Shaftsbury* made uſe of his Intereſt there to diſtreſs the Adminiſtration of King *Charles* the Second. There is one particular Privilege which they enjoy of Electing their own Sheriffs; and when Authority is veſted in ſuſpicious Hands, they ought to conſider, That Men of Profligate Principles, impowered with Impanelling of *Middleſex*-Juries, may give away the Lives of every Honeſt *Engliſhman*, and ſend People to *Tyburn*, who ought to be Elſewhere.

THIS Conſideration ſhould make every Citizen careful how he gives his Vote in that Affair; and if ever there ſhould be a Corrupt Miniſtry, they would

ſpare

ſpare no Expence to carry that important Point, and the Bribing a Majority in the City of *London* to anſwer that Purpoſe, would ſave them Expence and Trouble on other Occaſions.

EVERY ſingle Man who ſupports the Intereſt of ſuch Sheriffs as are Tools to a Cruel Adminiſtration, becomes himſelf a Party to the Barbarity and Murders he enables them Legally to commit.

THE

THE

# TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. VI.

*Quiſquis es, amiſſos nunc jam obliviſcere Graios;*
*Noſter eris.* —— VIRG.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21. 1723.

THE following Letter came to my Hand on *Monday* laſt, and ſeems to be wrote by a Well-wiſher to his Country. It claims a Place in this Paper, where I hope to have Opportunities of communicating more of this Correſpondent's Letters to the World.

*SIR,*

YOU have very juſtly made *Impartiality* the Firſt Qualification of your TRUE BRITON; and I promiſe myſelf, you will ſecure your Title to that Part of your Character.

TO

TO call that *Liberty* to Day, which we call'd *Liberty* ſome Time ago; to eſteem that to be *Perſecution* againſt *one*, which we ſhould eſteem to be *Perſecution* againſt *another*; to impute the ſame *Effects* to the ſame *Cauſes*; to call the *ſame Things* the *ſame Things*; though this may ſeem but a Low and Ordinary Degree of Underſtanding and Honeſty, is yet that *Greatneſs of Mind*, that *Impartiality of Judgment* which very few People arrive at.

NOTHING is more common, than for a Party of Men, in a ſmall Courſe of Time, to forget themſelves, and act contrary to thoſe very Principles which made them a *Party*. *Parties* will generally have ſo much of Madneſs, Violence, and Contradiction in their Conduct, as happens to be in the *Private Temper* of their *Leaders*. And are ſeldom any longer true to the Principles and Reaſons of their *Party*, than thoſe at the Head of them, prove to be moderate, equitable and undeſigning Men.

AS *Abſolute Monarchy*, in the Hands of a Wiſe and Virtuous Prince, may make a Nation for his Time, more Happy than any *Legal Government*; ſo the Cauſe of Liberty, when committed to the Hands of *Violence*, *Avarice* and *Revenge*, may more inſlave a People, and deſtroy a Nation, than the heavieſt Strokes of *Monarchical Power*. The *True Briton* is therefore, to look to the Preſervation of the *Principles* of his Party, and not to the Men who make a Bluſter in it; for it will often happen, that he muſt loſe his *Party*, if he will follow thoſe whom Fortune has placed at the Head of it. An *Evil Miniſter* may have ſo acted, that he can be no longer ſafe, than whilſt he is

in Power: He may have more to fear, than an *Evil Monarch*, and to be forced upon more deſperate Methods to ſecure himſelf from an abuſed, injured People.

THE *True Briton* is therefore to ſtick to the *Reaſons* and *Principles* of his *Party*. He is to follow the *Old Patrons* of his Cauſe; to adhere to *Equity*, *Liberty*, and *Moderation*; and to reckon none to be of *his* Party, who, on any Pretence whatſoever, ſwerve from *them*. The *Good* of *Party*, is, In ſupporting *Principles*; The *Evil* of *Party*, In following *Perſons*.

WHEN I give this Advice, I can only be ſuppoſed to ſpeak to the *Tories*; for the *Whigs* have been ſo Happy in their Governors, that they cannot follow them too blindly. Their Conduct, at leaſt ſince His Majeſty's Acceſſion to the Throne, has been but *One continued Act* of *Uniformity*; One *perpetual Endeavour* to *ſtrengthen* and *finiſh* the Glorious Fabrick of *Liberty*.

IN a *Late Reign*, *Power* was ſome Time in *Other Hands*; *Liberty*, for a while hung down its Head; *Property* grew precarious, and *Magna Charta* as little valued as the *Original Contract*; *Corruption* increaſed; *Bribery* was eſtabliſhed; *Religion* declined; and the *Church* was aſhamed to ſee herſelf committed to the Care of an Illiterate, Weak, Worldly, Proſtitute Clergy.

THOSE Days brought forth the *Occaſional* and *Schiſm Bills*; which are ſuch violent Attempts upon the *Liberty of the Subject*, as at once made the *Kingdom* but a Den of Slaves. The *Peace* with *France* had

had proved *Great-Britain*'s Funeral, had not His Majeſty's Acceſſion to the Throne, committed the Adminiſtration to the *True Patrons* of *Liberty*. Theſe little Intervals of *Tory Perſecution* and *Slavery*, have always created more Work for the *better Party*.

BUT their *Happy Continuance* in Power ſince the Late Reign, and Freedom from any Fear of *ever* loſing it, has made them able to compleat every Part of the Scheme of *Liberty*, and carry ſome Bleſſings of the *Revolution* higher than even the moſt *Sanguine* amongſt us could expect.

THE *Tories*, when in Power, ſhewed themſelves mere *Bunglers*: They knew nothing of *Money Matters*; Their *Exchequer* was low; They *feared* Expences; State Officers were in Arear of their Salaries; and the Lord Treaſurer came out of his Office, as Poor as he entered upon it. But now! *Money* is ſo *Plentiful*; the *Exchequer* is ſo *Rich*; that the Government has lately remitted above *Seven Millions* of Money to a *Single Company*. It is Happy for the Gentlemen in the Adminiſtration, that ſuch a Sum of Money, ſo *generouſly* given, has alſo ſo much *Juſtice* to ſupport the Gift. Or otherwiſe, ſince the *Breach of Truſt* is now made liable to be puniſhed by *Forfeiture of Eſtate*, as appears by the *South-Sea* Directors Bill; the Nation, to whom that Money was due, might, ſome time or other, inquire after it. But the *great Juſtice*, the *Extraordinary Charity*, and the *Wiſe Ends* of giving the *Nation*'s Money to the *South-Sea Company*, are ſo plain and obvious an Inſtance of *National Care*, that thoſe who are chiefly intitled to the *Merit* of it, may ſafely repoſe themſelves upon the Nation's Favour.

WHEN

WHEN Her Late Majesty was so Unhappy as to employ the *Tories*, the Church of *England* began to make broad her *Phylactery*, and to talk of *Independency* of the State; and *Bishops* were chosen to support such Claims. His Majesty's Happy Reign has filled that *Reverend Bench* with such *Primitive*, *Learned* and *Apostolical* Men, as even gain the *Esteem* and *Favour* of all the *Sworn Enemies* to *Episcopacy*.

THE Bishop of *Rochester* (as mere a Slave to *Church Principles* as Arch-Bishop *Laud* was) has had the Voices of *Nineteen* out of *Twenty Bishops* to *Banish* him the Kingdom. And to their *Eternal Honour* be it said, That neither the *Sacredness* of the *Episcopal Character*; nor the *Extraordinariness* of the *Case*; nor the *Unusual Method* of the *Proceeding*; nor their *Concern* for a *Brother*; nor their *Affection* for the *Church*; nor the *Example* of above *Forty Temporal Lords*, could abate their *Christian Zeal* for the *Banishment* of so Great and Eminent a Brother. The History of JOSEPH is a very entertaining Story.

IT is endless to enumerate the various Circumstances of our *present Happiness*. The *Number* of *Good Laws* which have been lately made, as they must mightily *Endear* the *Present Ministers* to all Lovers of *Liberty*, so they reflect the highest Reproach upon *those Days*, when *Power* was in *other Hands*.

YOU have made just Observations upon several Laws. I wonder how the *South-Sea Directors* Bill, by which they forfeit their Estates, escap'd your Observation. It is a Statute of as much Importance as

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. VII.

*Turno Tempus erit, magno cum optaverit emtum*
*Intactum Pallanta, & cum ſpolia iſta, diemque*
*Oderit.* —— VIRG.

MONDAY, JUNE 24. 1723.

I DID in my laſt but one, make ſome few Obſervations on the Evidence which was offer'd to ſupport the inflicting Pains and Penalties on *John Plunket*; and ſince I have allow'd, that in Extraordinary Caſes the Interpoſition of Parliament may be neceſſary to do Juſtice to the Kingdom, my Readers will permit me to mention ſome few Inſtances where ſuch a Method of proceeding by Bill, is the only

only Remedy an Injured Nation can have againſt its moſt Dangerous and Inveterate Enemies.

IF ever we ſhould be ſo unfortunate as to ſee a Prince on the Throne, whoſe Eaſy and Unactive Temper might induce Him to withdraw from Publick Buſineſs, and repoſe an implicite Faith on His Miniſters, and permit every Man in his Court to be a Tyrant but Himſelf, it would be the Duty of the Legiſlature to deſtroy Offenders who ſhould abuſe that Truſt, and maintain themſelves in the Injoyment of Favour by ſuch wicked Meaſures as would intitle them to Puniſhment.

THIS was the Situation of *Rome* under *Tiberius*, who forſook the Seat of Empire, and retired to the Iſland of *Caprea*, whilſt he was Maſter of the Univerſe, and left the Management of Publick Affairs in the Hands of Cruel and Avaritious Men.

THIS Country has formerly ſuffer'd by the Follies of weak Princes, and though the Providence of God has for ſome Time freed us from all Misfortunes of that Nature, by placing His preſent Majeſty on the Throne, and ſecuring the Proteſtant Succeſſion; yet it affords great Comfort to every *True Briton*, when he conſiders, That, if ever we ſhould groan under the Yoke of Deſpotick Miniſters impos'd upon us by an Indolent King, ſuch corrupt Wretches may meet with their juſt Doom, however they might endeavour to Skreen themſelves under the Appearances of Law.

IF ever we ſhould ſee Men in High Stations, whoſe only Care ſhould be to inrich themſelves, and

ennoble their Families, and, in order to effect both these desirable Ends, should sacrifice the Constitution of *England* to their Avarice and Ambition, it would be but common Justice to strip them of their ill-got Wealth, and prevent their injoying the Sweets of what they shall have heaped together by Plunder and Rapine. This Rule was follow'd by those who punished the Directors of the *South-Sea* Company, for their Causing the Ruin of so many Great and Honest Families, who were the unhappy Sufferers by their Villainous Transactions.

IT is a Maxim in the Law of *England*, *That the King can do no Wrong*; but those who surround the Throne are answerable for the Mischiefs which flow from it; so that the Subjects must attribute all the destructive Measures which are pursued by a Court, to the Influence of those Men who shall, at such Time, bear the greatest Sway in the Publick Councils.

IF the King of these Nations should ever be governed absolutely by the Directions of One Man, and make the Pleasure of such a Minister the Rule of his Government, it will be the Duty of a Parliament to free Him from Servitude, and of the Prince to submit his Favourite to the Publick Censure.

IF, upon Enquiry, it should be found, That such a Person, thus made Great by the Royal Favour, had counselled and advised the appointing Sheriffs to return Members to Parliament, who were not legally chose; to impannel proper Juries whenever he should incline to Cruelty; and if he should direct the Issuing out of Pub-

Publick Money to bribe and corrupt Cities and Boroughs, in order to fill the Houſe of Commons with his Creatures; ſhould ſuch a Man eſcape the Puniſhment due to his Crimes?

IF it ſhould be found, That he had diſtributed Penſions and Places to Members of Parliament, in Order to induce them to ſupport his Adminiſtration, by giving the Colour of Law to ſuch Steps as deſtroyed the Law itſelf; Should he, who thus would proſtitute the Dignity and Honour of the Crown, be ſuffered to reap the Benefits of his Treachery?

IF it ſhould be found, That he had inrich'd himſelf, by dealing with publick Companies in the City, and taking great Sums of Money from them to give his Aſſiſtance to their Funds, and thus be guilty of Receiving, as well as Diſtributing of Bribes, will not this be thought Corruption of the blackeſt Dye?

IF it ſhould be found, That ſuch a Miniſter had endeavour'd by Menaces and Hopes, to procure Evidence to ſwear falſly againſt Honeſt and Innocent Men; Will not this be eſteem'd a Crime that calls for the higheſt Vengeance?

IF it ſhould be found, That he had ingag'd us in Wars wherein we were unconcern'd, out of Perſonal and Private Views, and by ſuch New Unneceſſary Expences, render'd the Burthen of the Publick Debt heavy and grievous, would he not deſerve to be given up to the Juſtice of an Injured Nation?

THIS will not be our Caſe: but if ever it ſhould, in future Times, be the unfortunate Situation of this Kingdom, there would not be wanting *Bold* and *Honeſt* Men to ſtrike at ſuch a Miniſter, even in the Higheſt Luſtre of Power, and either over-turn this Common Enemy, or periſh in the Attempt of it; and it is our Happineſs to know, that the Greateſt Subject in *England* muſt ſubmit to the Sentence of the Law.

THE Proof neceſſary to convince Mankind of the Guilt of ſuch a Miniſter, is, The Miſery which the People who live under him endure from the Influence of his Councils: But if there ſhould be found Living Witneſſes to corroborate any Circumſtance of his Male-Adminiſtration, they would be ſtill ſtronger Supports to the Accuſations againſt him; and there ſcarce would be wanting Men who would turn Informers, when they ſaw him removed from his Employment; and this they would be prevailed on to do, out of the ſame corrupt Views that had made them Creatures to him during his Proſperity.

WE have had one late Inſtance of the Spirit of the Commons, when the *Chancellor of the Exchequer* was obliged to forfeit his unjuſt Gains, and render'd incapable of a Seat in either Houſe of Parliament.

NO Prince on the Throne, who conſults His own Intereſt, or the Good of his People, which ought to be Inſeparable, would protect or defend ſuch a Miniſter, when once his Guilt was detected; but would be as willing and deſirous to yield him to the Will of the Law, as he had been ready and eager to promote him.

If

If he judg'd right, he would ſee, That no one was ſo much injured by ſuch a Man's Behaviour, as the King, whoſe Government he had made Odious to advance his Private Intereſt, and whom he had robb'd of the Affections of his People. It was the Want of this Way of Thinking, that ruin'd the late King *James*, and occaſion'd the Misfortunes of that Unhappy Prince.

WHEN the People plainly perceiv'd their Laws infring'd, and the moſt ſacred Bulwarks of Liberty openly attack'd by the aſſuming of a Diſpenſing Power, they juſtly thought themſelves diſcharg'd from their Oaths of Allegiance, and acted as it became a Free People, determined to maintain their Rights and Privileges.

THEY knew the Oaths they had taken to King *James*, were in Return for the Promiſe he had made to his Subjects at his Coronation; and when his Majeſty had acted contrary to what he had Sworn, they thought all their Obligations Null and Void.

THEY ſet aſide *Hereditary Right* with great Juſtice, and ſettled the Crown on His Preſent Majeſty, who is alſo bound to govern according to the Laws of the Kingdom; and who has himſelf declared from the Throne, That They ſhall be the Rules and Meaſures of His Government.

*FRANCE* has follow'd our Example in this laſt Inſtance, and now there remain but few Kingdoms where the Doctrine of *Hereditary Right* prevails.

BUT

BUT to return: If the Torrent of the Times ſhould ever profane the Sacred Power of puniſhing by Bill, veſted in Parliament for the Protection of the Subject againſt Wicked and Corrupt Miniſters, no Man would be Safe or Secure; and the moſt Honeſt Men in the Kingdom might eſteem their Lives and Liberties precarious.

THE laſt Inſtance where this Method was found neceſſary, was in the Caſe of the Depriv'd Biſhop of *Rocheſter*, who embark'd on *Tueſday* laſt, to Execute that Part of his Sentence, which condemns him to perpetual Baniſhment; and which obliges him, in his Advanced Age, and Feeble Situation of Health, to Change his Country and Climate, and Every thing but his Religion.

I COULD wiſh to have that Prelate's Style, in order to paint a True Character of ſo Great and Learned a Man. But the Qualifications that adorn him, are ſo conſpicuous, that no Flowers of Rhetorick are required to illuſtrate them.

THE Firſt Inſtance which diſtinguiſhed him, and intitled him to the Favours of the Court, and Eſteem of Mankind, was, The Early Proof he gave of his Juſt Pretenſions to Holy Orders, by the excellent Book which he publiſhed in Defence of the Reformation. And he could ſay, the Firſt of *June* laſt, He was the only Biſhop of the Church of *England*, who had wrote in Defence of *Martin Luther*, the Great Patron of the Proteſtant Intereſt. This Behaviour

viour was justly valued in former Reigns; and, it is presumed, cannot be judged a Crime in this.

IN the Reign of Queen *Anne*, he was advanced to the Deanary of *Christ-Church*, and afterwards created Dean of *Westminster*, and Elected Bishop of *Rochester*; His Behaviour, in every Station of his Life, has shewn him to be a Person of the Greatest Wit, built upon the Foundation of Good Sense, and directed by the strictest Rules of Religion and Morality.

HE was always for maintaining the Dignity and Privileges of the several Offices he bore in the Church; and this Just Way of Behaviour, inforced by that Steadiness which was natural to him, created him many Enemies among the Canons of *Christ-Church*, and Prebends of *Westminster*, who naturally must, by their own Interest, be obliged to oppose any Dean who should maintain the undoubted Rights which he ought to enjoy. —— But it is hoped, all those Feuds will be at an End in this last mentioned Chapter, by the Prudent and Just and Choice His Majesty has made of Dr. *Bradford* to succeed him.

HIS Piety towards his Children, and his Sincerity to his Friends, made him justly Beloved and Respected by Both. No other Crime can be laid to his Charge, but that for which he now suffers, which over-ballances all his Virtues.

THE Malice of his Enemies insinuated, That he would change his Religion when he came into Foreign Countries, and be deluded into the Errors of the Church of *Rome*: But he declared in his Defence before

fore the Houſe of Lords, with the ſtrongeſt Aſſeverations, That he would dye at a Stake, rather than abandon the Principles of the Eſtabliſh'd Church of *England*.

THE Chearfulneſs with which he indured his Fate, ſhewed him to be Superior to all the Calamities of Life; and would induce every Man to believe him Innocent, had not ſo *Great*, ſo *Independant*, and ſo *Uncorrupt* a Majority in both Houſes of Parliament declared him Guilty.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. VIII.

*Quo ruitis vel quæ dementia, dixi,*
*Concitat, O Socii!* —— OVID.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28. 1723.

THE Subjects of this Kingdom not only enjoy the Comforts of a Mild and Free Government, but have the great Advantage over their Neighbours, of following the True Principles of the Christian Religion in its Primitive and Natural Purity.

WHEN the great Work of the *Reformation* was accompliſhed in *England*, the Wiſdom of thoſe Learned and Great Men who conducted that Glorious Change, and ſhook off the intolerable Yoke of the See of *Rome*, prevented our falling into the Misfortunes which too often attend ſuch great Alterations; when, generally, Perſons who deſtroy *Tyranny*, fall into the other Extremes of *Anarchy* and *Confuſion*.

WE

WE ſtill preſerve in our Church that *Decency* and *Decorum* which become us as Chriſtians, in our Divine Worſhip: And this is guarded by the Order of *Epiſcopacy*, which was inſtituted by Chriſt Himſelf, and continued down to us by his Holy Apoſtles.

THE Great Guardian of our Church, and, I may ſay, The Ornament of our Kingdom, is the Body of the Clergy; and peculiar Care ought to be taken, that no Perſons be admitted to Holy Orders, whoſe Principles do not incline them, nor Learning enable them, to perform the Duties incumbent upon that Sacred Function.

WHEN Men of vile and heretical Notions are allow'd to wear that Sacred Garment, they may be juſtly ſaid to be *Wolves in Sheeps Cloathing*; And from the Pulpit frequently propagate ſuch dangerous Tenets, as raiſe Confuſion in the Minds, and Diſtraction in the Conſciences of their Hearers.

THE Two Univerſities of this Kingdom are the Fountains from which all Erudition flows; and the utmoſt Efforts are uſed by them to inculcate proper and juſt Principles in the Minds of the Youth whoſe Education falls to their Share.

IT is a Comfort and a Satisfaction to every Honeſt Man, that no Foreign Univerſity is equal to One of our Colleges; And the whole World admires the Largeneſs and Number of our Foundations. The Intent of thoſe Pious Men, who have left thoſe Illuſtrious Monuments to tranſmit their Names with Honour to Poſterity, has been fully anſwered by the Learning

ing and Integrity which at preſent abound amongſt them.

EVERY Perſon who has contributed to this Great and neceſſary Inſtitution, has had the Benefit of being tranſmitted to future Ages, by the many and various Books of Science and Divinity, which have been publiſh'd by thoſe who taſted the Sweets of his Benefaction.

WHEN Men have ſhewn by their Knowledge and Behaviour, That they are proper and fit Perſons to preach the Goſpel of Chriſt, then it is the Duty of every Biſhop to repoſe that great Truſt in them; And their ſubſequent Way of Preaching and Living muſt recommend them, according to their ſeveral Stations and Abilities, to future Preferment.

WHEN a Divine has merited the Higheſt Station of the Church, he ought to receive it whenever there is an Opportunity of beſtowing it; and it is incumbent upon him to follow the Dictates laid down in Holy Writ, for Biſhops to purſue.

Saint *Paul* in the Third Chapter of his Firſt Epiſtle to *Timothy*, recommends it to them, *To be blameleſs*; *The Husband of one Wife*; *Vigilant*; *Sober*; *of Good Behaviour*; *Given to Hoſpitality*; *and apt to Teach.* This laſt Command is very neceſſary to be remarked: For, if ever we ſhould ſee the Time when any of that Holy Character look on a Biſhoprick as a *Sine Cure*, and think they have nothing to do to anſwer the Intention of their Patrons, but to Vote as ordered in a Houſe of Parliament, Then may our Church juſtly be ſaid *to be in Danger.*

AN-

ANOTHER Order of the Apoſtles to them, is, *That they ſhould not be given to filthy Lucre.* This is unneceſſary at this Time to be conſider'd, when it is evident, at preſent, that the Proſpect of *Tranſlations* to more *Wealthy Revenues*, does not at all ſway the Minds or corrupt the Principles of any Member of our *preſent* Bench, whoſe Zeal for this happy Eſtabliſhment, will always induce them to perſevere in one *continued Way* of Acting.

HE is alſo *not to be a Novice: leſt, being liſted up with Pride, he falls into the Condemnation of the Devil.* This would be very proper to be taken Notice of, had we any Biſhop who ſeemed exalted at ſudden *Advancement*: But there is none amongſt them who does not every Day give freſh Inſtances of their great Humility.

MOREOVER, ſays Saint *Paul*, *He muſt have a good Report of them which are without, leſt he fall into the Reproach and Snare of the Devil*: And it is to the Eternal Honour of our Government, That *no Perſon* has lately been promoted to a See, whoſe Character has not been confirmed by the *univerſal Voice* of the *People*.

BUT if ever we ſhould ſee the Time when theſe *Fathers of our Church* ſhould think their *Private Intereſt* ought to be their *Principal View*; and that all other Conſiderations ſhould be ſubſervient to *that*, we muſt expect, That in all Stations of Life, they would forſake the Commandments of our *Saviour* and his *Apoſtles*, and bow the Knee to *Baal*.

IF

IF they were commanded, as Judges in Private Caſes, they would blindly obey, or even convict an Innocent Man on the kind of Evidence mentioned in the following Letter.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR*, *June* the 14th.

I DOUBT not but you will think it the Duty of a *True Briton*, to take Notice of any poiſonous Writings that are vended, and to prevent the Influences of them. In Confidence, therefore, of the *Importance* of the Subject I treat of, I ſhall make no farther Apology for interrupting You in the Noble Deſign you ſeem to be engaged in.

I ſuppoſe you have ſeen a *Latin* Epiſtle from Dr. FRIEND to Dr. MEAD, about ſome particular Sorts of the *Small-Pox*: This is, indeed, the ſeemingly Innocent Deſign of it; but, upon ſtricter View, it will appear to be the moſt bareface'd, impudent Attack upon our Excellent Conſtitution (and, perhaps, upon all Government in general) that ever had the Author's Name prefix'd to it. What aggravates the *Doctor*'s Crime, is, That this Pamphlet is dated from the *Tower*, where he was confin'd upon *Suſpicion of High-Treaſon*, and to prevent his injuring the Government: And yet I ſhall prove this Work to be, if not a *Legal*, at leaſt a *Corroborating* Evidence of the *blackeſt of Treaſons*.

I SHALL begin with an inconteſtable Proof of a Covert Deſign in the Epiſtle; which is, That every Word in it, that I lay any Streſs upon, is printed in an *Italian* Character: And it has always been a ſtanding Maxim among Authors, *That whatever Word or Sentence is printed in a different Character, ſhall be judged to contain ſomething Extraordinary*, Preface to the *Tale of a Tub*, p. 33.

THIS I build upon; and, without forcing the Conſtruction in the leaſt, ſhall proceed to ſhew the rancorous Enmity of the Doctor to all Government, or all but *Abſolute Monarchy*. Upon ſecond Thoughts, indeed, I am inclined to think him a Favourer of *This*, becauſe he has not expreſs'd a Diſlike of it in his Pamphlet; and becauſe in this View, his Writings will be conſonant to the *ſuppoſed* Crimes he was lately confined for.

ALL the Charge againſt him, will eaſily be made good, if you will allow me, that by *Variolæ* he means *Governments*; for then it follows, very naturally, that by *Diſcretum genus Variolarum*, is meant a Government in which different Branches of Power are *diſcernable*, or a *Free State*. By *Interſtinctum genus*, is ſignified a *Limited Monarchy*; namely, our own Government *diſtinguiſhed* into the ſeveral Parts of King, Lords and Commons; and by *Confluens genus*, a *Republick*, in which every Man comes in for a Share of Power. This Conſtruction is ſo natural and obvious, that every Man muſt immediately give into it, and wonder that he himſelf did not find it out. I am confident, that if we could diſcover the *True Perſon*

the

the Letter was deſigned for, upon a *diligent Search*, we might find a *Cypher* upon him agreeable to *This* Interpretation: I ſay, the *True Perſon*, becauſe *Richardus Mead* is certainly here a *fictitious Name*. If I would indulge my ſelf in the Liberty of Conjectures, I ſhould have great Hopes of tracing out the *True Names*; but in a Paper of this Nature, I reſolve to confine my ſelf to ſtrict Demonſtration. By *Helvetius*, p. 1. He means *Hobbes*; this is very plain by the ſame Letters beginning and ending both the Names; *Qui doctrinâ & experientiâ medicâ inſtructiſſimus diverſa variolarum genera perſecutus eſt*; that is, *A Learned Man and a great Politician, who has inveighed againſt the ſeveral kinds of Government.* Before I go farther, I muſt obſerve, That He beſtows this Character as an *Encomium* upon *Hobbes*; and that He expreſſes the *greateſt Bleſſing* of Mankind, by the Name of the moſt *loathſome Diſeaſe*: Theſe are Crimes that have no Names nor Puniſhments annex'd to them as yet; but I think it will become the Wiſdom of the P——t to equip them.

I SHALL now produce ſome particular Paſſages of the Epiſtle, and by tranſlating them according to the foregoing Key, ſhall expoſe the Venom of them.

P. 3. He ſays, *Helvetius intra diſcretum genus variolarum* malignitatis *notas ſubeſſe advertit*, febremque *aſſidue inhæreſcere pro maligni humoris temperie diverſam*; That is, Hobbes *takes Notice, That there are Marks of Diſaffection in a Free State; and that there are always Seeds of Rebellion in it, in Proportion to the Degree of Diſaffection:* Then our Author adds, *Et hujuſmodi*

*varietas ille luculenter satis explicavit*; *And he has explain'd this Sort of Government very justly.*

NOT content with this, he rises in his Assertions, and affirms, *Interstinctæ, utcunque notis ab eo descriptis careant, Salutem in discrimen ultimum adducant: A Limited Monarchy, though it has not the before mentioned Symptoms, leads the People into the utmost Danger.*

AGAIN, p. 4. *In Interstincto genere multiplex* pustularum *varietas est, & Febris non minus ac in confluentibus intenditur, & periculum æque minatur. In a Limited Monarchy there is a Variety of Eruptions, and a Rebellion is equally fierce and dangerous as in a Republick.*

WELL, Sir! what think you? Which is more astonishing, his Boldness in advancing these traiterous Scandals, or Folly in thinking to escape with Impunity?

P. 6. He proposes an Example of what he before asserted; and accordingly, in the Malice of his Heart, pitches upon the Person and Reign of King *Charles the First*, as fit for his Purpose. That he is meant thro' Five whole Pages, must be evident to any one that can comprehend the Meaning of *Æsop*'s *Fables*; But the Latter End is so very flagrant, that I must transcribe it. P. 9. *Adhibita sunt* Vesicantia; Clysteres *injecti: affixa* Cucurbitulæ: *sanguis demum ex* Jugulari *vena detractus*; That is, *Petitions, Remonstrances and Resistance were applied; and last of all, he was let Blood in the Jugular Vein*: Which can mean nothing

thing but his being Beheaded: and then follows his Approbation of it in these plain Terms, *Siquidem in hoc ancipiti casu, venæ aperiendæ præciditur omnis deliberatio: neque enim in pustulis, quod retrocedat, materiæ quicquam: When the State is in this uncertain Condition, we must not hesitate in the least about shedding Blood; for when an Insurrection is made, there is no going back.* And then he concludes his Instance with this abominable Sentence; *Is expeditissimus* Revellendi *Modus*; This is the speediest Cure: *Et cæteris, etiam iis quæ in* Podibus *sunt, præcellet* Jugularium *sectio, ubi Cerebrum afficitur.* Which is a Sentence I will not presume to translate.

IF I would undertake to shew the Author's whole Scheme, I should be obliged to translate the whole Pamphlet; and shall, therefore, content my self with the Proofs already given, only adding a Passage, which seems to contain a scandalous Reflection upon a *Great Man* I need not mention to you. *P.* 12. talking about the *Pulse*, or *Temper* of the *State*, he says, *Quem quidam, licet ei tangendo insenuerint, non intelligunt: Some that are grown Old in considering it, know nothing of it.*

AFTER all this, the *Doctor* may very well say to the Person he writes to, P. 17. *Vereor ne non tam* Epistolam *quam* Libellum *ad te mittere credas: I begin to fear you will think I have sent you not an* Epistle, *but a* Libel: But I am surprized at his Assurance in the Postscript, where he says, *He wrote this Pamphlet with the Leave of the Governor, and in the Presence of the Warder.* It is, indeed, very probable the *Warder* knew nothing of the Matter. But the *Gover-*

*nor* would certainly have diſcovered the Intent of it, if he had read it.

I SHALL now conclude, with aſſuring you, that I have wrote this, not out of any *Perſonal Prejudice* to the *Doctor*; but for *Love* of my *Country*, and tho *Government* we are ſo *Happy* under; and to ſhew, That I have *ſome Portion* of the *Spirit of Sagacity* that is *of late* gone out among us.

I am, *SIR*,

*Your Moſt Obedient Humble Servant*,

A. Z.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

## NUMB. IX.

*Neſcia mens hominum fati ſortiſque futuræ,*
*Et ſervare modum rebus ſublatа ſecundis.* VIRG.

MONDAY, JULY 1. 1723.

THE Election of the Sheriffs of *London* and *Middleſex*, being at preſent the Subject of all Converſation, I think it will not be improper to trouble my Readers with ſome few Obſervations on a Matter of ſuch high Importance to the whole Kingdom.

AS the Intent of this Day's Paper is only to juſtify the Reputation of ſeveral Gentlemen, and the Character of all the Livery-Men, who appeared for Sir

*John Williams* and Mr. *Lockwood*, which are aſperſ'd in a Falſe and Scandalous Manner by ſeveral Printed Advertiſements and Libels, I hope and preſume, ſuch an Intention will not be conſtrued to reflect on the Government, or any Perſon in the Adminiſtration.

I HAVE mentioned formerly, the many Benefits which the City of *London* receives from the Privilege of chuſing their own Sheriffs; and every *Engliſhman* is concerned in the Manner in which the exerciſe that great Truſt repoſed in them by our Conſtitution, ſince his Life and Fortune may be determined by the Juries which ſhall be impanelled by the Officers thus Elected.

SIR *William Thompſon*, the preſent Recorder, who has lately met with a Mark of his Majeſty's Favour, by receiving the Grant of a Penſion of Twelve Hundred Pounds *per Annum*, during the King's Life, and his own, did, with a great deal of Zeal for our Eſtabliſhment, and Duty to the preſent Government, recommend a Juſt and Impartial Choice to his Fellow Citizens at this Juncture, as the only Method to preſerve their Liberties and the Publick Welfare.

I SHOULD only deſire to take Notice of ſome Expreſſions in this Speech, which is Printed in the *Daily-Poſt* of *Thurſday*, *June* the 26th.

IN the Third Paragraph of this Diſcourſe, he is recounting the many Bleſſings we enjoy under the preſent happy Eſtabliſhment, in theſe Words:

*AS you are so happy to enjoy, under the Protection of the present Government, all your Religious and Civil Rights, without the least Invasion or Violence: As you have the good Fortune to live under a Constitution where the Publick Justice is administred openly and impartially according to the known Laws of the Land,* [Here he might have added, Except when the Wisdom of the Legislature shall interpose to supply the Defect of Legal Evidence] *You cannot but approve of such Measures as tend to the Continuance of these Blessings.*

*AMONG others, you cannot but desire, that Juries, who have, in some Degree, the Disposal of your Lives, your Liberties, and your Properties, should be impanelled fairly and indifferently, and free from Byass and Prejudice.*

WHOEVER, therefore, would follow this Good and Just Advice, must consider, whether Sir *John Williams* and Mr. *Lockwood*, or the other Two Candidates, are the most likely to act an unbyassed and unprejudiced Part; and which of the Four Gentlemen will impanel Juries fairly and indifferently.

THE Two Persons I have mentioned, are Eminent *Turkey-Merchants*, and great Proprietors in the Publick Funds. Is it probable, that any Man who has such great Sums ingaged in Government Securities, should let them remain there, were they not determined to support that Government they intrusted with the greatest Part of their Properties? Can it be ima-

imagined, that if Men could be ſo deluded, as to wiſh the Deſtruction of the preſent Conſtitution, they would ſo largly contribute their Eſtates for the Support of it? But this Calumny proceeds from the Old Method, that has been the Conſtant Maxim of One Party, to brand every Subject with *Jacobitiſm*, who oppoſes their Meaſures in the leaſt Inſtance?

IN order to aſperſe and vilify the Character of Mr. *Lockwood*, they have, in a Printed Advertiſtment, recommended him jointly with Alderman *Barber*, whom they would inſinuate to be an Agent of the *Pretender's*. For my Part, I am not yet convinced this laſt Accuſation is true; for though the *Report* of the Secret Committee of the Houſe of Commons, does, indeed, charge the *Alderman* with having remitted great Sums of Money Abroad for the Service of the *Pretender*, yet the Wiſdom of the Gentlemen who framed that *Report*, is not infallible. There is one remarkable Inſtance in which they were miſtaken, for the celebrated Letter to *Dubois*, which was ſeized among the late Biſhop of *Rocheſter's* Papers, was eſteemed by them as a Letter received by the Biſhop; but afterwards, by a Similitude of Seals, and the Reſemblance of Two *F's*, conjectured to be wrote by him.

THE Intention of thoſe People who reflect thus on Mr. *Lockwood*, muſt be alſo, to caſt the moſt odious and black Abuſe on the Majority of the Citizens of *London*, who elected him their Repreſentative in Parliament; and who thought proper to intruſt him with the great Power of taking Care of their Intereſt

in

in that Part of the Legiſlature of which he is a Member.

IF it appears, that the publick Conduct of this Gentleman has been conſtantly calculated to ſupport our Eſtabliſhment in Church and State: If, in another Place, he has oppoſed every Step taken to innovate or alter it: If he has joined in every Vote for the Defence of the Laws of this Kingdom, and has refuſed to find thoſe Guilty againſt whom he eſteemed no clear Proofs of Guilt were produced; Or if, in any former Choice in this City, he has eſpouſed the Intereſts of Men publickly known to be zealous Promoters of our Trade and Welfare, in Defence of the Rights and Privileges of the City: I ſay, If theſe Things can be proved, then this Gentleman is a proper Perſon to be intruſted at this Juncture.

IF the other Two Perſons, Sir *Richard Hopkins* and Mr. *Feaſt*, have, upon this Occaſion, ſpared neither Pains nor Expence to obtain an Office, which, if juſtly executed, is attended with great Charge and Trouble, will it not be proper to inquire, what Views they may have in the ſtrong Solicitations they have made? Or, will it be taken for granted, That Mr. *Feaſt*'s *Conſtant Adherence* to the Principles *he now* profeſſes, and the *remarkable* Zeal he has *always* ſhewn for the Support of the preſent Government, have *ſingly* prevailed upon him to employ his *Money* and his *Trouble* to obtain the Sheriffalty for the enſuing Year?

THE Privileges of the City are on this Occaſion eſſentially concerned: For, if the Three Great Companies,

panies, *East-India*, *Bank*, and *South-Sea*, ſhall, by Threats and Promiſes, uſe their utmoſt Efforts to chuſe ſuch Perſons as they approve of, to be Magiſtrates of the City of *London*, the great Power which the Extent of their Trade, and the Number of Perſons concerned under them, muſt give them, may enable them to be as abſolute Maſters of the Liberties of *London*, as they are of their own Affairs; and muſt impower them to trample effectually on the Freedom of Elections.

IF every Perſon whoſe Subſtance depends on the Favour of thoſe Companies, muſt be drove to the cruel Neceſſity of ſtarving themſelves and Families, or Voting againſt their Conſciences and Inclinations; This muſt be eſteemed an open Violation of the Rights of the Livery-Men; and, conſequently, dangerous and deſtructive to the Publick Welfare; And thoſe Perſons who ſhall with Courage oppoſe ſuch Violence and Corruption, ought to be eſteemed Friends to the People, and Defenders of their undoubted Privileges.

THE falſe Inſinuation made by ſome amongſt us, That Sir *John Williams* and Mr. *Lockwood* were recommended as proper Perſons to ſave and ſkreen Traytors from the Hands of Juſtice, could come from nothing but the Malice of thoſe who would wiſh to ſee the Power of returning Juries repos'd in the Hands of Men who ſhould employ it to deſtroy the Innocent, and to anſwer the Purpoſes of the Guilty.

GENTLEMEN of ſuch Credit, ſuch Riches, and ſuch Characters, would ſcorn to act a Part which the

the whole World would condemn and detect. Neither can thoſe whom they are ſuppoſed to ſerve, offer them any Temptation to ſwerve them from that Allegiance to His Majeſty King GEORGE, to which they are tyed by *Duty* as *Subjects*, and *Intereſt* as *Merchants*. And if ever Perſons can be guilty of abuſing the Great Power veſted in them by their Fellow-Citizens, it muſt be, when they are promoting the Schemes of Men who are enabled to gratify their Avarice or Ambition.

FOR Argument ſake, we will ſuppoſe, that even this falſe Suggeſtion were true; and that the Sheriffs of *London* ſhould be endowed with ſuch vile and wicked Principles; we have ſtill one Comfort left us, That there is a Method of proceeding by Bill eſtabliſh'd the laſt Seſſions of Parliament, which will render their Attempts Fruitleſs and Vain; ſince the Legiſlature would, in ſuch Caſe, undoubtedly interpoſe to do Juſtice to an injur'd Nation. But if, on the other Hand, thoſe intruſted with the Execution of that Office, ſhould, by the Menaces of Men as wicked and corrupt as themſelves, procure Verdicts to be given againſt the Honeſt and Guiltleſs Subjects of this Kingdom; Where could the Unfortunate Wretches they injured, flee for Redreſs, when the Sentences pronounced againſt them, would be conſtrued to be Juſt, becauſe they were built on the Forms of Law?

THUS, on the one Hand, no Man can eſcape Puniſhment, who deſerves it; and on the Other, thoſe may be deſtroy'd who are free from all Crimes, and againſt whom no Proof is given.

WE

WE have had one late Inſtance which ought to free the *Tories* from any Imputation on this Account; for the Jury by which Mr. *Chriſtopher Layer* was condemned, was chiefly compoſed of Gentlemen in that Intereſt; and yet, ſuch was their Regard for Truth, and their Adherence to His Majeſty King GEORGE, and the Succeſſion of his Family, that they found him Guilty, with the greateſt Zeal and Chearfulneſs.

THE Manner in which this Election was conducted by the preſent Sheriffs, will appear to have been Impartial and Juſt, notwithſtanding the Reflections caſt on them to the contrary: And, perhaps, their only Crime is, That they have behaved themſelves with that Juſtice and Steadineſs as became them as Magiſtrates; and as ſoon as the *Scrutiny* is over, which I preſume will be the Conſequence of their Declaration on *Tueſday*, their Behaviour will appear to the Satisfaction of all Honeſt Men.

AS I was concluding this Paper, I receiv'd the following Letter.

*SIR*,

I Deſire you will inſert theſe *Queries* in your next Paper, if you have Room for them, which will oblige,

*Your Humble Servant*,

A. B.

*Query* I. WHETHER the Clerks of the *Poſt-Office* intermedling in the Elections of this City, and form-

forming a Mob to obſtruct the Livery-Men as they were coming to Poll, is not an open Violation of the Freedom of Election?

II. WHETHER Men of the Firſt Quality ſending to threaten their Tenants and Tradeſmen, if they would not Vote for Sir *Richard Hopkins* and Mr. *Feaſt*, be not pretending to Govern the City of *London* in an Arbitrary Manner?

III. WHETHER the bringing down a Number of *Informing Conſtables* to Abuſe, and Knock down, and Commit the Friends of Sir *John Williams* and Mr. *Lockwood*, is keeping the Peace, or preſerving the Quiet of the City?

IV. WHETHER any Perſons have a Right of Voting for Sheriffs of *London*, but the Livery-men of *London*? And whether ſome Hundreds of Perſons were not polled for *Hopkins* and *Feaſt*, who never were called on the Livery, nor were ever ſo much as made Free of any Company?

V. WHETHER a certain Duke's Appearing at the *Feathers* in *Cheapſide*, and Dining there with ſome of his Friends, can be conſtrued to Influence the City againſt the Freedom of Elections, or to encourage them to preſerve it?

THE

THE

# TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. X.

*Pergama tum Vici cum vinci posse Coegi.* OVID.

FRIDAY, JULY 5. 1723.

IT is the Duty of a KING, who Himself cannot be supposed to enter into the Minute Parts of Government, to Vest the Execution of Power in the Hands of Honest and Discreet Men. These Ministers are to be accountable to Him for all their Actions; and He is to review them with an Impartial Eye, in order to secure His Subjects from Violence and Oppression.

THE Great Maxim in Politicks which Governors should pursue, is, "Never to enter into Measures to "answer particular Occasions, without considering, "with the utmost Caution, how far that Step which "their Necessities may, at one Juncture, flatter them "into,

" into, can prove fatal and dangerous in its Con-
" ſequence.

WERE this Maxim followed as it ought, we ſhould ſcarce find any Precedents eſtabliſhed, which one Time or other may be brought to juſtify the Vileſt Actions, and to deſtroy the Liberties of theſe Kingdoms.

WHEN there is an Emergency that ſeems to require Extraordinary Remedies, the Buſineſs of our Governors, is, To conſider, Whether the Situation of Affairs is ſuch, as can warrant the Applying of ſuch violent Phyſick as muſt be a Shock to the Conſtitution in General.

THERE is no doubt but this Matter was carefully weighed by the Proſecutors of the late Conſpiracy; and that they were thoroughly convinced, that the State could not be ſecure, nor His Majeſty King GEORGE free from Danger, had they not imployed the Force of Parliament to bring ſuch to Puniſhment, as are at preſent labouring under it.

THE Baniſhing the late Biſhop of *Rocheſter*, and the Impriſoning Mr. *Kelly*, are ſuch Additions of Strength to the Government, that we ought not to repent, or have the leaſt Apprehenſions from the Methods of Evidence eſtabliſhed in their reſpective Caſes.

BECAUSE Decyphered Letters, admitted by the Decypherers themſelves to be only explained to the beſt of their Skill, and not by any infallible

Rules, were ſuffered to be the Foundation of the late Charges, without obliging theſe great Artiſts to produce their Key; and thus permitting the Whole of the Belief of theſe Perſons Guilt to depend merely on the Science and Knowledge of Men which could not be diſproved for want of ſuch Key; Is it to be taken for granted, That in every Man's Caſe hereafter, this Extraordinary Manner of doing Juſtice is to be converted into an Example?

BECAUSE the Proof of Similitude of Hands is allowed upon the Oath of a Meſſenger, who ſaw the Perſon write but once, and contrary to the poſitive Evidence given on that Occaſion by many Witneſſes of Credit and Reputation; Is it to be preſumed, that this will not be the laſt Time when ſuch Proceedings will be thus maintained?

BECAUSE in theſe late Proſecutions, when Names ſuppoſed to be fictitious, want Explanation, People ſhould undertake, without the leaſt apparent Foundation, to aſſert their Meaning; Is it to be ſuppoſed this will ever be practiſed again? No! The Danger which the *Biſhop* and *Kelly* could bring upon this Kingdom, made it abſolutely neceſſary in Prudence, to deprive them of the Means of prejudicing their Country.

BUT if hereafter, Times leſs Righteous than theſe we live in, and Miniſters leſs Watchful than our Preſent for the Publick Good, ſhould think it convenient and proper to ſubvert our Government, by depriving it of thoſe Men who ought to be its greateſt Support; I am under ſome Apprehenſions, that

even

even *theſe* good Laws may be abuſed, and that no ſucceeding Adminiſtration will be afraid of following the ſame Rules of Evidence, as have been allowed by ſo Juſt a Parliament as that which it is our Bleſſing to have at preſent.

THUS may the moſt neceſſary Acts of Power be abuſed, unleſs Men do confine their Judgment to the preſent Time, and never carry their Views farther, nor weigh the future Conſequences of all their Actions. It may often happen, that many Things may ſeem juſt to thoſe who only meaſure the Wiſdom of them by their preſent Appearances; which, taken in a general View, will be diſcovered in another Light.

MINISTERS ought to be Men of great Temper and Moderation; for the leaſt Paſſion with which they may be endowed, is of Conſequence to the whole Kingdom, and may even give a Turn to the Affairs of *Europe*. Therefore we ought to eſteem it our Bleſſing to ſee His Majeſty's Cabinet filled with Men who *equally* avoid Violence, and purſue Juſtice.

IT is impoſſible for any Perſon to ſuggeſt, that the Diſcovery of Truth is offenſive to any now in Power; Such is the Liberty of the PRESS which flouriſhes at preſent. And though Two Printers lately had great Fines impoſed on them by the Court of *King's-Bench*, yet it was for Printing and Publiſhing a ſcandalous *Libel* which highly reflected on His Majeſty and His Government.

WAS this Rigour generally purſued, it would infallibly make any Future Law to that End uſeleſs, and teach Men to ſpeak the Language that became them; and which ſhould be agreeable to the Adminiſtration.

I PERCEIVE, in looking over the publick Papers, a Letter ſigned by a *Weſt-Saxon*, and directed to the TRUE BRITON. I think it does not deſerve an Anſwer; for I am determined to deſpiſe all the mean Reflections of Mercenary Scriblers. But I ſhall take the Liberty of Writing a Letter to another Perſon in his Stile and Words.

## *To the* FALSE BRITON.

*May it pleaſe your Honour,*

AS You are a Man of great Power, I ſhall think it an Honour to be numbered hereafter among your Correſpondents.

YOU ſet out at ſuch a Juncture, and in ſuch a Manner, and then ſuch is your Rank and Character, that no-body will ſo much as pretend you act either to enjoy Place, Hire, or Penſion. This gives you an Advantage far above the meaner Tribe of mercenary Creatures; and muſt certainly gain you the Devotion and Credulity of both H—— of P——

I SHALL not fear, be the Times what they will, to compliment you on your Wiſe Choice of a Party fit for your Purpoſe; and your Couragious Defence of a Cauſe, which, now ſome People are gone, ſtands in need of the moſt Powerful Advocates.

TO

TO overturn a Government ſo firmly eſtabliſhed; To act for a Party and Cauſe which ſeems to be abandoned both by God and Man; To declaim againſt the beſt of Men, and cry up the worſt; To endeavour to convince us, by Arguments perfectly Weighty, that we labour under a *Deceptio Viſus*, and have loſt the Senſe of Feeling; and that we neither ſee nor feel Oppreſſion or Impoſture; are ſuch glaring Proofs of your Wit, your Judgment, your Courage, your Diſintereſtedneſs, and your Zeal for your Country, as are hardly to be matched in a M——— of your Eminence, except it be in your Illuſtrious Family.

I HOPE the noble Puſh you lately made for the Rights and Privileges of the Citizens, when you abandoned the Qualities appendant to your Authority, and conſented to uſe your utmoſt Efforts for chuſing Two proper Sheriffs in Oppoſition to a Majority of Livery Men, and to ſtretch your Pocket among Leather-Apron *Stentors*, will never be forgot ſo long as *Gog* and *Magog* ſtand in the Hall. And pray give me Leave to congratulate your Honour upon the Succeſs.

*I am* SIR,
*Without Admiration or Aſtoniſhment*,
*The* TRUE BRITON.

MY Readers will forgive the Badneſs of the Style, becauſe moſt of the Words are taken from the Gentleman's Letter who wrote to me; though by his Addreſs it is plain he is a Stranger to my Perſon.

THE following Adverti[illegible]ment came to my Hands Yeſterday; and it being to juſtify the Reputation of a Gentleman, I cannot refuſe it a Place in my Paper.

AS nothing can be dearer to a Man than his Reputation, I might, perhaps, be thought Self-condemned, if I omitted to vindicate mine, which has moſt baſely been ſtruck at in the *London Journal* dated *June* the 15th. I ſhall, therefore, take leave to conſider the Part of that Paper which relates to me, in its True Colours, without any Regard to its *ſuppoſed Author*; for, let who will be concerned in ſo infamous a Compoſition, I know no *Authority* he can have for traducing and vilifying Innocent Perſons. I muſt own, were I as univerſally deteſted as either the reputed Author or Patron of that Falſe and Scandalous Libel, I ſhould ſcarce preſume to juſtify myſelf; But as it is not my Lot to have incurred the Juſt Hatred of my Fellow-Subjects, I dare venture an Appeal to them; and doubt not but I ſhall ſtand clear in their Opinions of the Calumny charged upon me by that Vile and Hackney Scribbler.

THE Guilt I am charged with, is, The giving a Partial Teſtimony in Favour of Mr. *George Kelly*, who is now confined in the *Tower*; and, in order to maintain this Villainous Accuſation, it has been inſinuated, that I was previouſly inſtructed for that Purpoſe, becauſe I denied the Letter of the 20th of *Auguſt*, and all other Papers, to be the Priſoner's Hand-writing, except thoſe Letters writ to the Lord *Townſhend* and Mr. *Delafaye*, which the Priſoner himſelf was willing ſhould be owned. But I ſhall make it appear, that this Suggeſtion is Falſe and Malicious, and that it was impoſſible I could have been lead in my Evidence by any other Motive, than the Diſſimilitude of Hands. For,

WHEN

WHEN I was called before the Houſe of Commons, ſeveral Papers were ſhewed me, ſome of which I took to be Mr. *Kelly*'s Hand-writing, and ſome not; But whether any of them were directed to the Lord *Townſhend*, or Mr. *Delafaye*, I know not; nor can I affirm, that I ſaw, or diſowned the Letter of the 20th of *Auguſt*, which is ſaid to be the Criminal Letter: For the Papers produced, were all, I think (beſides Three or Four) turned down both at Top and Bottom, which hindred me from ſeeing either the Dates, or the Names ſubſcribed to them. And thoſe that were not turned down, were dated Two of them in *June*, One Dated *Wedneſday*-Morning, and Another dated from the *Royal-Oak*; but what Day of the Month I cannot particularly recollect; Though thus far I am poſitive, it was not on the 20th of *Auguſt*. Now, as the Letter of the 20th of *Auguſt*, if it was produced there at all, was dated at the Top (as appeared when the Letter was produced at the Houſe of Lords without any Diſguiſe) 'tis plain, the Date of the Letter which was concealed, could not have induced me to ſay, That it was not of the Priſoner's Hand-writing; nor could the Name ſubſcribed, have given me any better Inſight, ſince the ſame Care had been taken to conceal both the Bottom and the Top. And as for the Subſtance of the Letter, the King's Council can Witneſs, that it was impoſſible I could receive any Information from thence; for they took Care not to give me an Opportunity of reading Half a Line of any one of the Papers produced; ſo that I ſubmit to all thoſe who are not blinded with Prejudice, whether this Charge againſt me can be any other than a *Determined* and Ignominious Falſehood. The Author is

inconſiſtent with himſelf; for he ſays, That Mr. *M'namara* not being ſo well *prepared*, denied all in a Lump. How can he pretend to reconcile, that Mr. *Kelly*, whom he allows to act in other Reſpects with the utmoſt Skill and Dexterity, ſhould, in that great Point, upon which his Fate is ſaid to depend, be ſo ſparing of his Inſtructions to Mr. *M'namara*, who was the Second Witneſs called in; and, conſequently, had a good Opportunity of becoming *Expert*, if he had been ſo diſpoſed; But the Oppoſition of Mr. *M'namara*'s Teſtimony and mine, is ſo far from being a Blemiſh upon either of us, That, conſidering the favourable Opportunities we had of Adjuſting them, every unbiaſſed Perſon muſt needs be convinced, that we ſpoke according to our different Notions of Mr. *Kelly*'s Hand-writing; and that we were far from being *prepared*, in the Criminal Senſe of the Word, or in any other Senſe than we are at preſent; *viz.* To tell the Truth, and ſhame *Britannicus*.

WHEN I appeared at the Bar of the Houſe of Lords, ſome Papers were produced which had not been ſhewed me in the Houſe of Commons, though the *London Journal* ſays, I ſpoke to all that was there produced in the ſame Manner I had done at the Bar of the Houſe of Commons.

THE firſt Paper laid before me in the Houſe of Lords, was, A Letter of the 20th of *Auguſt*, which I affirmed not to be Mr. *Kelly*'s Hand-writing; and being asked by my Lord *Scarborough*, Wherein it differed from what I had ſeen Mr. *Kelly* write? I anſwered, In the Form of the Letter, the Largeneſs of the Hand, and the Wideneſs of the Lines; Yet *Britannicus*

*tannicus* (who pretends to have been a Careful Obſervator in the Houſe of Lords) ſays, That when I was asked, In what Mr. *Kelly*'s Hand-writing differed from that Letter of the 20th of *Auguſt*, I could name no Particulars, but that he generally wrote a ſmaller Hand. But I appeal to the Noble Lord who asked me the Queſtion, and to all thoſe who heard my Anſwer, If this Aſſertion of my Accuſer, be not a moſt Monſtrous and Notorious Forgery.

THE Second Paper ſhewed me in the Houſe of Lords (which *Britannicus* affirms, I ſhould have ſaid, had ſome Reſemblance of Mr. *Kelly*'s Hand-writing; But ſo little, that I ſhould not have taken it for his) was a Paper relating to the Marriage-Articles; and this Paper I affirm to have owned to be Mr. *Kelly*'s Hand-writing as poſitively as I could. And upon my Lord Chancellor's asking me, If that was not ſomewhat like the Letter of the 20th of *Auguſt*, I told his Lordſhip, I could not diſcover the leaſt Likeneſs between them; And if there was any, it was ſo very diſtant, that I ſhould never take them to be the ſame Hand-writing. And had I thought of this Paper of Articles in the Manner that this *Journaliſt* falſly aſſerts, I ſhould have ſpoke to it, and been that *Expert* Witneſs he repreſents me to be. Surely, my Skill would have directed me to have gone through Stitch, and denied at once any Reſemblance whatſoever between the Papers; ſince I muſt come off that Way much better.

THUS has this abominable Syeophant perverted the whole Scope of my Evidence; and though it is not Incumbent on me to diſprove him any further than

than I have been Injured by him; yet I cannot omit this Opportunity of letting the World know, That if the whole Tryal were publiſhed by Authority, I believe it would appear to have been very Diſingenuouſly conveyed through the corrupt Channel of the *London Journal*.

DENNIS KELLY.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XI.

*Si Vincimus, omnia nobis tuta erunt, Commeatus abunde, Municipia, atque Coloniæ patebunt; Sin metu ceſſerimus, eadem illa adverſa fient.* ——

SALL.

MONDAY, JULY 8. 1723.

IT is the Misfortune of this Kingdom to be in continual Diſtraction from the Feuds ſo induſtriouſly fomented between *Whig* and *Tory* by the Heads of both Parties.

IT is ſurprizing, that Men born under the Protection of the ſame Laws, and whoſe Intereſt it mutually is to preſerve the Enjoyment of *Liberty*, ſhould make that ineſtimable Bleſſing precarious, and enable our Enemies, by theſe fatal Diviſions, to deſtroy every Thing that is valuable to us.

COULD

COULD all Honeſt Men unite firmly together, and with Courage and Reſolution, ſupport the True Intereſt of their Country, laying aſide all Party Diſtinctions, it would be ſoon ſeen, That even in *This Age*, Virtue would triumph, and Juſtice be duly purſued; But when Perſons are intimidated from following their former Tenets, for fear of being vilified and aſpers'd by the Men whoſe Actions they diſown, it muſt be eſteem'd, by all Impartial Judges, that they prefer the *Name* to the *Principles* of their Party.

IT is evident to me, that he may be truly ſaid to alter his Opinion, who ſhall call himſelf of a Party, and blindly follow his Leaders, in Matters directly oppoſite to his Way of Thinking: But he who perſeveres in his Maxims, and deſpiſes the Name affixed to thoſe who entertain the ſame Sentiments, is a Conſtant, Reſolute, and Honeſt Man.

THE great Misfortune it will be to this Kingdom, if ever the *Whigs* ſhould abandon their Zeal for the Publick Good, is expreſs'd in the following Quotation out of *Davenant's Eſſay upon Trade*. I have taken it from the Second Edition of that Treatiſe, Printed in the Year 1700. Pag. 156, to 160.

'TIS hop'd theſe Names of Diſtinction are now quite aboliſh'd and forgotten; But the Faction of *Guelfs* and *Ghibelins*, after having ſlept for ſome Time, reviv'd again, and continued upwards of Two hundred Years, even when the Derivation of the Words was no more remember'd. And the Parties laſted ſo long, becauſe the ſame Principles upon

'upon which they had first differ'd, remain'd still 'deeply imprinted in their Minds, and afforded con-'tinual Matter for new Dissention.

'IN the same Manner, perhaps, some time hence, 'the Names of *Whig* and *Tory* may be again renewed 'here, to disturb the Nation's Peace; and if this 'should happen, we must implore the *Whigs* not to 'forget their old Principles and antient Maxims.

'THE *Tories*, by taking Arms to defend their 'Civil Rights, and by joining to depose that Prince 'by whom those Rights were violated, have, in the 'most Publick Manner in the World, renounced their 'Doctrine of *Jus Divinum*, Passive Obedience, and 'Non-Resistance.

'BUT if the *Whigs* should hereafter take *their* 'Stations; if they should go upon that Ground 'which the *Tories* have quitted; if they should 'enter upon just such Measures; if they should pur-'sue the same Councils; if they should suffer them-'selves to be imbib'd with *Tory* Notions, our Con-'stitution must be intirely lost.

'FOR *they* may undermine it without Suspicion: 'Who will be Jealous of those who have been Preach-'ing up Liberty, and accusing Arbitrary Ministers 'for Thirty Years? Who will suspect such profess'd 'Patriots? They may change the Form of our Go-'vernment, and have the People of their side, who 'can have no Jealousy of them; for the *Whigs* are 'the Favourites of the People, as having so often 'preserv'd *England*. No Person could be Popular

'enough

'enough in *Rome* to think of Subverting its Conſti-
'tution in the Purity of the Commonwealth, but
'*Manlius* who had ſav'd the Capitol.

'IT will hardly be ſurmized, that *they* can mean
'to inſlave us, who (by their Speeches, Actions and
'Writings) for many Years, ſeemed rather inclined
'to a Republic, than to deſpotic Government. But
'if they ſhould come to change their Minds; if they
'ſhould throw off their former Principles, we ſhall
'be undone by the very Men whom we thought our
'ſureſt Friends.

'IF Old *Whigs* ſhould hunt after Places as much
'as ever the *Tories* did, and if, like them, upon
'Preferment, they ſhould become quite New Men;
'in Voting, Thinking, and Speaking, in a Moment
'making a ſudden Turn from the whole Courſe of
'their former Lives; If Old *Whigs*, as the *Tories*
'did, ſhould ever take Bribes and Penſions to betray
'their Truſt; if they ſhould do any Thing to break
'into the *Habeas Corpus* Act, which is the Chief
'Guardian of our Liberties; If they ſhould oppoſe
'any good Act for the frequent Sitting of Parliaments,
'which Want in the Conſtitution produc'd all our
'former Miſeries; If they ſhould openly oppoſe any
'reaſonable Proviſion for Tryals in Treaſon, the
'Want of which has loſt many a noble Life, and for
'which heretofore they had ſo loudly called; If, as
'the *Tories* did, they ſhould ſend their Emiſſaries
'about to influence or corrupt Elections; If Old *Whigs*
'to whom *Meum* and *Tuum* was once ſo ſacred,
'ſhould come to ruin a Society of Trading Men, and
'at one Blow deſtroy many hundred Families; but

'God

'God forbid *Engliſhmen* ſhould ever have ſuch a 'Thought; If Old *Whigs* ſhall perſuade any future 'Prince to Cloſet Members, as was done in the pre-'ceding Reigns; If by their Power they ſhould get 'Men turn'd out of Employment for purſuing the 'Dictates of their Conſcience and Underſtanding; If, 'like the Miniſters heretofore complained of, they 'ſhould have a Band of Penſioners ready to give up 'any Right, to grant any Sum, and to excuſe, nay, 'even to vote their Paymaſter Thanks for any Male-'Adminiſtration:

'IF the Old *Whigs* ſhould reſtore to Men the ſame 'diſhoneſt Intereſt they had heretofore; If they 'ſhould conſume us in their Miniſterial, and ſell us 'in their Legiſlative Capacity: If they ſhould deſire 'to have Things govern'd rather by Tricks and little 'Arts, than according to the Direction of the Laws, 'or the Bent of the People; If they, who, upon the 'Virtuous Principle of keeping *England* a free Coun-'try, in former Times oppoſed all Exciſes, ſhould 'be brought to create ſo many new Offices and Offi-'cers, as may Influence Elections round the King-'dom; If they, who heretofore thought the beſt way 'to preſerve their Civil Rights, was to keep the 'Purſe, and to have always ſomething to give, ſhould 'be for Settling ſuch an immenſe Revenue on the 'Crown, as may make Parliaments unneceſſary; If 'they who were ſo careful in King *Charles*'s Reign, 'not to burthen the Nation with Taxes, ſhould give 'away the Peoples Wealth, as if *England* were a 'Mine of Treaſure never to be exhauſted; If they 'who have ever aſſerted, that all Rents and Payments 'to the Crown were the Kingdom's Revenues, and

not

'not Alienable, but by Authority of Parliament, 'ſhould, in a ſhort Space of Time, come to Alie-'nate all the Crown Land, and to leave the King 'hardly a Turf of Ground either in *England* or '*Ireland*; If they who formerly thought it ſufficient 'Matter of Impeachment for a Lord Treaſurer, or 'any Other intruſted by the King, to paſs large 'Grants from the Crown to themſelves, ſhould give 'to their Creatures, and ſhare among one another, in 'a few Years, of Crown Lands near to the Value of 'Two Millions.

'IF the very Men who have * *Aſſerted and Claim-'ed it to be their true, ancient and indubitable Right, 'and that it ought to be eſteemed, allowed, adjudged and 'deemed, That the Raiſing or keeping a Standing 'Army within the Kingdom in Time of Peace, unleſs 'it be with the Conſent of Parliament, is againſt 'Law*; If they who once believed this Eagle in the 'Air frighted all Motions towards Liberty; If they 'who heretofore thought Armies in Time of Peace 'and our Freedoms inconſiſtent; If the ſame Men 'ſhould throw off a Whig Principle ſo fundamental; 'If they ſhould become the open Advocates for ſtand-'ing Forces, and even ſubmit to Troops compoſed of 'Foreigners:

'IF in this Manner the Old *Whigs*, whoſe Fore-'ſight and Courage has hitherto preſerved *England*, 'ſhould quite change their Minds, and go thus re-'trograde from all their former Speeches, Actions,

* Act declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, *Pag.* 197, 199.

'and

'and Councils; If they ſhould thus come to cloath 'themſelves with the Foul, Ridiculous and Deteſted 'Garments of the *Tories*, and give into the worſt of 'their Meaſures; And if all that has been here diſ-'courſed ſhould happen, Then would the Conſtitu-'tion of this Country be utterly ſubverted.

'FOR Men finding themſelves thus forſaken by 'the Antient Friends to Liberty, would believe they 'were bought and ſold; They would imagine, That 'there was no ſuch Thing as Virtue and Honeſty 'remaining in the Kingdom; They would think all 'Pretenſions to the Publick Good, to be nothing but 'Deſigns of Ambitious Perſons, to lift themſelves up 'to high Honours, upon the Shoulders of the People; 'And when Nations have before their Eyes an Armed 'Power to fear, and none in whom they can put any 'Truſt, they ſeldom fail of ſubmitting to the Yoak'.

*N. B.* The Livery-Man of *London*'s Letter ſhall be publiſhed in my next.

THE

# TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XII.

*Dardanidæ infenſi, pœnas cum Sanguine poſcunt.*——
VIRG.

FRIDAY, JULY 12. 1723.

THE following Letter from a Livery-Man of the City of *London*, claims very juſtly a Place in this Paper.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR*,

I HOPE you will not think it improper to communicate to the Publick the preſent Situation of our Affairs relating to the late Choice of Sheriffs.

IT has always been the conſtant Rule of an Arbitrary Government, to deſtroy the Freedom of Elections, and

and it has generally been the Fate of the City of *London* to fall the First Victim to such wicked Schemes. ——— The Liberties to which we are intitled, are secure and safe under so mild an Administration as at present rules us; and if any illegal and unwarrantable Measures have been pursued, in Opposition to Charter, Justice, and Prescription, we need not fear to meet with Redress in the Courts of *Westminster-Hall*, where impartial Judges are to direct and charge uncorrupt Juries.

ONE of the Great Crimes justly laid on King *Charles* the Second's Administration, was, The great Blow he struck against the Constitution of *England*, by depriving us of our Charter. And it is hoped, it will be allowed, That if Persons in Authority are to be supported in the rendring of it Useless, it will be esteemed as fully destroyed, as if it were actually surrendred: Since those Magistrates who ought to be the Guardians of our Privileges, submit to exercise their Power in a contrary Manner.

WHEN once the City of *London* is deprived of its Rights, every Corporation must expect the same, where a Mayor is an Irresolute, and, to say no worse, an Easy Man, and shall suffer himself to be imposed upon by wicked Advice, in direct Opposition to the Duty of his Place.

BEFORE I enter into the Proceedings which have lately been the Subject of Conversation, and are like to create Disturbance where Peace ought most to be preserved, it will be necessary to quote some Clauses in an Act of Common Council, which was passed in

the Reign of King *William*; and which continues still in Force; and which will undoubtedly meet with the greateſt Regard. It is intitled, *An* ACT *of* Common Council *for Settling the Methods of Calling, Adjourning and Diſſolving the Common-Halls, upon the ſeveral Elections of the* Mayor, Sheriffs, Chamberlain, *and other Officers uſually there Choſen.*

The Clauſes I mean, are as follow.

And it is Enacted and Ordained for the future, That if after any Common-Hall is aſſembled, for any of the Elections, as aforeſaid, a Poll and Scrutiny, or either of them, ſhall be lawfully demanded, or any other Difficulty ſhall ariſe which may require the Adjournment of the ſaid Hall, That then the Right of granting and taking the Poll and Scrutiny, or either of them, and Adjourning the ſaid Hall from Time to Time 'till ſuch Poll and Scrutiny are concluded, and the ſeveral Elections finiſhed, ſhall be in the Sheriffs of the ſaid City for the Time being, and no other; Any Law, Uſage or Cuſtom to the contrary notwithſtanding.

But if it ſhall at any Time happen, That any Diſpute or Difference ſhall ariſe at ſuch Elections between the Sheriffs for the Time being, touching any Matter relating to Adjournments, Polls, or Scrutinies, that may impede or hinder the completing and finiſhing thereof within the Times hereafter for that Purpoſe limitted and appointed; That then, and in ſuch Caſe, all ſuch Differences between them the ſaid Sheriffs ſhall be determined by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor for the Time being; and ſuch Orders and Directions as his Lordſhip ſhall therein make, ſhall be obſerved by the ſaid Sheriffs accordingly; and in Default of an immediate Compliance with ſuch Orders and Directions,

That

That then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Lord Mayor for the Time being, to proceed in granting and taking the Poll and Scrutiny, or either of them; and in Adjourning the said Hall from Time to Time 'till such Poll or Scrutiny are concluded, and the several Elections finished; in like Manner as the said Sheriffs should or might have done, in case no such Difference had happened.

And it is hereby further Enacted and Ordained, That where any Poll or Scrutiny, or either of them, for determining the Elections of the Officers and Persons aforesaid shall be granted, that the Sheriffs for the Time being, shall finish such Poll within Three Days next and immediately ensuing the First Meeting and Assembling of the Common Hall; And that the said Sheriffs shall and are hereby required to finish the Scrutiny, and to make Return of such Officers and Persons, as shall be so Chosen within Seven Days next and immediately ensuing the finishing such Poll: And in case of Difference between the said Sheriffs, as aforesaid, that then the Lord Mayor for the Time being, shall, and is hereby required, to finish such Poll within Three Days next and immediately ensuing such Difference, and to finish the Scrutiny, and to make Return of such Officers and Persons as shall be so Chosen, within Seven Days next and immediately ensuing the finishing of such Poll, in like Manner as the Sheriffs should have done, in case no such Difference as aforesaid, had happened.

IN Pursuance of this Law, and according to the Antient Custom of the City, the Common Hall was assembled on *Midsummer Day*, and the present Sheriffs, who, as you see above, are the Sole Judges of such Election, declared the Majority to be in Favour of Sir *John Williams* and Mr. *Lockwood*; upon which a

Poll was demanded, and carried on Three Days, with the greateſt Decency and Order; And ſuch was the Complaiſance of the Two Sheriffs, *Parſons* and *Child*, that they condeſcended to name the Hour, on which the Books ſhould cloſe each Night, though they were not obliged to ſhew any Conceſſion of that Nature.

WHEN the Poll was concluded, they ſummoned the reſpective Candidates to name proper Perſons who ſhould have the Inſpection of the Books, in order to ſee the Numbers: But Mr. *Falkingham* (appointed by Sir *Richard Hopkins* and Mr. *Feaſt* as their Inſpector) complains, That the preſent Sheriffs did not ſtay for his Return out of the Country to finiſh that Work, which they were in Duty bound to do; and ſeems to charge them with dealing unfairly, becauſe they did not wait on his Hours, and obey his Summons.

THE Gentlemen, according to the old Cuſtom of the City, and the conſtant Uſage on the like Occaſions, declared the Two Perſons duly Elected on whom the Majority had juſtly fallen. And, in the Method of ſuch Declaration, omitted Proclaiming the Numbers, which was ſeldom or never done on ſuch Occaſions. It is certain our preſent Lord Mayor can never blame this Behaviour, ſince it is the ſame which he has obſerved in the Election of an Alderman for *Cripplegate Ward*, where his Lordſhip himſelf has declined mentioning the Particulars of the Poll: And the Manner in which Mr. *Baylis* was Sworn Alderman of *Breadſtreet Ward*, is freſh in every Body's Memory, and 'tis hoped Sir *John Ward* will not forget it.

WHEN

WHEN the Declaration was thus made, a Scrutiny was demanded by ſeveral of thoſe who where concerned to find themſelves a Minority. And it was Regularly and Juſtly granted: But, to the great Surprize of all honeſt Liverymen, Sir *Gerard Gouyer*, our Lord Mayor, aſſiſted by the Court of Aldermen came into the Hall, and, by their Mouth Sir *William Thompſon*, declared, they would interpoſe in this Affair; which they did in the ſame Manner as was done at the Time that Mr. *Papillon* and Mr. *Dubois* were duly choſe Sheriffs; and the M——y who then preſided, (determined on the Murders of *Ruſſel*, *Sidney*, and others) obliged Sir *John Moore*, then Lord Mayor, to come down on the *Huſtings*, and proclaim ſuch Perſons Sheriffs as they knew would pack Corrupt Juries fit for wicked Purpoſes.

THE Recorder acquainted his Fellow Citizens, That our Lord Mayor was determined to do them Juſtice; and, indeed, it was very manifeſt, that his Lordſhip's Intention was to ſee Right take Place; ſince that very Night, he refuſed to grant his Precepts to the Clerks of the ſeveral Companies to produce a Liſt of their reſpective Livery-Men.

WHAT Reaſons Sir *Richard Hopkins* and Mr. *Feaſt*'s Friends might have to decline this Impartial Way of Trying the Merits of the Election, are, as yet, kept Secret; though the only Motive which ſeems to have induced them to avoid this Method of diſcovering whether the Declaration of the Sheriffs was Juſt or not, is, That they were Conſcious to themſelves, That Sir *John Williams* and Mr. *Lockwood* had a fair and undoubted Majority of Legal Votes.

WHEN the Court met on *Friday* the 5th of this Inſtant, Mr. *Parſons* and Mr. *Child* again renewed their former Declaration, and adjourned it 'till Five in the Evening, in order to ſee whether the Lord Mayor or his Adviſers would condeſcend to allow the Citizens of *London* the Liberty of going through the Scrutiny which had been demanded; and which the Two Candidates who appeared to them to be duly Elected, were willing ſhould be compleated; and in order to it, offered to wave that Clauſe in the Act of Common-Council which fixes a Time for the Determination of ſuch Enquiry.

BUT, to the Great Surprize of all Honeſt and Impartial Judges, his Lordſhip, attended as before, diſſolved the Common Hall at Three the ſame Day; and took this violent Step at a Time when the City was in ſuch great Confuſion, and ſo important a Point remained undetermined. —— He declared, That they were convinced the Majority had fallen on *Hopkins* and *Feaſt*: And this he had no other Authority for aſſerting, but the Oaths of ſome Inſpectors, and Mr. *Falkingham*, who had before complained, that the Sheriffs had treated him ill by preventing his Caſting up the intire Poll. He and thoſe other Perſons depoſed, That they believe the Numbers were ſuch as were then declared: And thus the Court of Aldermen, without ever ſeeing the Books, and depending on the Opinion of thoſe Men, reſolutely ventured to contradict what the proper Officers, who had the Poll to produce for their Juſtification, had regularly, and in the uſual Manner, proclaimed and maintained.

THE

THE Citizens of *London* cannot but ſee what a Dangerous Blow it will be to their Freedom, if the Election of Sheriffs ſhould thus be wreſted from them, and given to the Court of Aldermen; who, if they ſhould ſucceed at this Juncture, will never part with that great Privilege: And, therefore, if ever there was a Situation of Affairs when Courage and Reſolution were neceſſary to be exerted, it is at preſent; or elſe there is an End of the Privileges of which we have, with ſuch Reaſon, boaſted.

IT is hoped, that ſince they have taken 'till *Tueſday* next to conſider of this Affair, they will ſtill do Juſtice to their Fellow-Citizens, by admitting Sir *John Williams* and Mr. *Lockwood* to Seal their neceſſary Bonds, who are, undoubtedly, duly choſe, and fairly returned.

THERE will ſoon appear a Number of Affidavits taken on this Account, which will convince all Mankind with how much Bribery and Corruption this Matter has been purſued; and what Efforts have been made by all Perſons in Employment or Authority, to carry a Legal Majority for Two Gentlemen, whoſe Characters are well known to all their Neighbours.

I WOULD once more obſerve, That the People of *England* are eſſentially concerned in this great Affair, ſince the laſt Time that our Rights were thus Violated, Corrupt Juries ſoon enſued, who brought Lord *Ruſſel* and Colonel *Sidney* to the Block, and ruin'd many Honeſt Families.

THE

THE Reſentment of thoſe Times was levell'd at *Pilkington* and *Shute*, whoſe Courage and Reſolution is equall'd, if not ſurpaſs'd, by the Juſt and Intrepid Part which Mr. *Parſons* and Mr. *Child* have acted in Support of their own and their Country's Rights.

IT is hoped, Sir *William Thompſon*'s Zeal, exerted on this Occaſion, is purely by Command, and not according to his own Opinion and Advice: For, if it ſhould appear, that he has been Inſtrumental in Animating and Encouraging theſe Feuds, it may juſtly be ſaid, That the Favours lately beſtow'd on him by the Court, are not plac'd ſo deſervedly as it could be wiſh'd.

I HOPE, that he will give Honeſt Counſel for the Good of the City; though if he ſhould lie under a Miſtake, it is not the Firſt Time that he hath been miſled, as appears by the following Reſolution paſs'd in the Laſt Parliament relating to him:

'RESOLVED, THAT the ſeveral Informa-
'tions in the ſaid Report mentioned to have been
'given to the ſaid Committee by Sir *William Thomp-*
'*ſon*, Kt. (a Member of this Houſe, tending to accuſe
'the Right Honourable *Nicholas Lechmere*, Eſq; His
'Majeſty's Attorney General, and one of His Ma-
'jeſty's moſt Honourable Privy Council, of Corrupt
'and Evil Practices, are Malicious, Falſe, Scanda-
'lous, and utterly Groundleſs.

SINCE the Sheriffs are allow'd to take a Poll or Scrutiny on an Election, is it not repugnant to Reaſon,

as

as well as Law, to ſuppoſe they have no Right to form any Judgment thereupon as to the Majority of Legal Votes, when their own Safety depends upon it? for they are obliged to make a juſt Declaration and Return of ſuch Perſons as are duly Elected by ſuch a Majority, which the Nature of their Oath of Office requires of them.

IN this Caſe, a Scrutiny was demanded; ſo ſenſible were the Perſons preſent, that the Sheriffs Authority was duly executed; and they ſubmitted to it by making ſuch a Demand.

EVERY Body muſt admit, That it is the Duty of the Lord Mayor to iſſue out his Precept to the Clerks of the ſeveral Companies to return the Liſts of the Livery, in order to enable the Sheriffs to receive farther Information, and to determine, with more Certainty, on whom the Election is of Right fallen: But in Caſe of ſuch Refuſal, when a proper Application hath been made for the Purpoſe, the Sheriffs are obliged by their Oath of Office, and by the ſtricteſt Rules of Reaſon and Juſtice, to go through the Enquiry in the beſt Manner they are able, and to make ſuch Return as in their Conſciences they believe to be juſt.

IT is evident and clear, That the Lord Mayor and Aldermen can have no Authority to make a Declaration of Officers, at whoſe Election they had no Right to preſide, and, conſequently, no Opportunity of diſcovering the Frauds and Abuſes that might have been practiſed.

THE

THE Sheriffs are not the Officers of the Court of Aldermen; for though, by the Indulgence of the Crown, they are to be chose by their Fellow-Citizens, yet they Yearly Accompt with His Majesty in His *Exchequer*, and not with the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, as naturally they would do, if they were dependant on them.

IT is hoped, that one Consideration will have Weight with the Gentlemen themselves; which is, If they should, in so unwarrantable a Manner, take Possession of those Offices; and that hereafter it should appear, as it infallibly will, that they are not Elected by a Majority of Legal Votes, every Corporal Execution will be deemed a Murther; and all other Processes will be no less than Robberies: And the whole World is left to judge what a Train of dire Consequences must attend such unwarrantable Proceedings. The Declaration of a Lord Mayor will never prove a Justification in Law to save them from the Criminal and Civil Prosecutions to which they may subject themselves by rashly taking this Office upon them, when a Majority of Legal Votes will be proved against them.

IT is not doubted but the Common-Council of *London* will assist their Fellow-Citizens in asserting their Rights; and that they will act with Vigour at this Important Juncture, notwithstanding any Menaces to deter them from it: Neither will they fear the Example of Alderman *Cornish*, who, when he appeared most Zealous for the Defence of the City, was, by the Ministers

Miniſters at that Time, eſteemed too Honeſt a Man to live.

THE Method of deſtroying him, with many other Worthy Citizens, was, contriving a Sham-Plot, and Bribing of Corrupt Witneſſes to ſwear them into it: And the Pack'd Juries returned by the Lord Mayor's Sheriffs, with great Chearfulneſs and Pleaſure, found them Guilty.

I am, *SIR*,

*Your Humble Servant*,

A Whig Livery-Man of *London*.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XIII.

——— *Populus me ſibilat at mihi plaudo*
*Ipſe domi, ſimul ac nummos contemplor in arca.*———
HOR.

MONDAY, JULY 15. 1723.

A KINGDOM can never be happy where the Intereſt of the King is oppoſite to the Good of his People, and when a Prince is obliged to overturn the Bulwarks of Liberty in order to maintain Himſelf on the Throne.

THIS is now the Unfortunate Situation of moſt States in *Europe* where the deſtructive Doctrine is received, That a Man's Duty to his Country is to be meaſured by his Allegiance to his Maſter, when it may be inconſiſtent and oppoſite.

*POLAND*

*POLAND* is a visible Instance of this Distinction, where King *Augustus* labours to settle the Succession on his Son, and render the Crown Hereditary. Every Patriot ought to oppose such Attempts and endeavour to preserve the Government in its Antient and Natural Purity. It must be allowed, that no Person who pursues the true Interest of that Kingdom, ought to yield to those foreign Innovations. It is certain, that King *Augustus* has so far complied with their Dispositions, as to change that Religion of which whilst he only was Elector of *Saxony*, he had appeared a Zealous Defender; But still it were happy for the *Poles*, if they could find him as true an Assertor of their Civil Rights, as he appears a sincere Convert to their Faith.

IN *Sweden*, the present King must have different Views from the Inclination of his People, and he must esteem his Title to the Crown precarious. Such a Thought will prompt him to make the best Use of his Time to improve the Advantages he has at present, to the private Benefit of his Hereditary Dominions.

THE glorious Stand lately made by the States, deserves to be recorded to their Eternal Honour; who, notwithstanding the King and Queen's Letters, resolved to give the Title of *Royal Highness* to the Duke of *Holstein*, whose Right they seem inclined to defend. There cannot be a greater Satisfaction, than to see those who are the Natural Guardians of Liberty, exert their Power to that great End: And on the other Hand, what a Misfortune must it be to a Nation, where those who are intrusted on the Part of the People

People as their Repreſentatives, imploy the Confidence their Principals repoſe in them, to yield up their Privileges to the Will of an Arbitrary Adminiſtration, and reſign themſelves to the Diſcretion of corrupt and deſtructive Counſels? It muſt be as fatal to that unfortunate Country, as it was to *Rome*, where the Power of the Tribunes came to be the Chief Inſtrument that inſlaved them.

IN *France* the Regent's *Scheme*, is to ſecure his Aſcending the Throne, whenever it becomes vacant by the Death of the preſent King; and whatever can promote that End, will be ſtiled the true Intereſt of the Kingdom, by his Royal Highneſs and his Creatures. The Affairs, both Foreign and Domeſtick, will be conducted with that View, and that ſingle Conſideration will influence all his Councils.

IT is our Happineſs in *Great Britain*, to be free from all the Miſchiefs which naturally attend ſuch pernicious Counſels; and we have the Satisfaction of knowing, that our King can have no ſeparate Intereſt from that of the Publick: Therefore it is no Wonder that thoſe Men who are deluded by an extraordinary Way of Thinking, and oppoſe any of his Miniſters Meaſures, ſhould be branded with Diſaffection; and it is certain, that no Power ought to be eſteemed dangerous when veſted in ſuch Hands.

THE Great Misfortune which may hereafter prove the Conſequence of ſuch Condeſcention in the Legiſlature, ought not to affright us, ſince it is viſible, the Adminiſtration of Affairs will be continued in the Hands

Hands of *Whigs*, who always tell us they are the great Patrons of Liberty.

WHENEVER Miniſters are ſenſible that their Actions are faulty, and will incur the Publick Cenſure, they will hire Hackney-Scriblers to juſtify their Actions to the World; and there cannot be a greater Sign that Men in Authority are conſcious of their own Guilt than their taking ſuch extraordinary Pains to varniſh the worſt of Actions.

FOR my Part, it is with Pleaſure I ſee ſome Perſons very much moved at the Encouragement this Paper has found in the World; and I aſſure them, that ſince I find it is diſliked, they may depend upon my continuing of it with double the Spirit.

I SHALL not ſay any Thing relating to the Perſon on whom ſuch Reflections are caſt by theſe Writers; but ſhould beg of theſe Mercenary Tools to vindicate their Pay-Maſters, by anſwering any Parts of what has been objected to them, by Men who are not wiſe enough to diſcover ſome Vertues where they are wanting.

IF ſuch a Venal Pen were to write a Panegyrick on the Perſons that employ him, he muſt alter his Style, as they vary in their Way of Acting.

IN the QUEEN's Time, he muſt ſay, That the *Schiſm* and *Conformity Acts* weaken'd the Proteſtant Intereſt; but in this Government, he muſt aſſert, That the Church was in Danger by Repealing of them.

IN the QUEEN's Time, he must accuse the Men that then were at the Helm, of Breach of Trust, for having put an End to a long and expensive War by the Treaty of *Utrecht*. But in these Times we must write in Favour of Alliances entred into on the same Foundation.

SUCH a Scribler, if he proceeds in this Method, must exclaim against the *South-Sea* Project at one Time; and soon after become the *Advocate* and Screen of those who had brought upon us such general Destruction, that can be compared to nothing more properly than an *universal Deluge*; whence none escaped but *those* that were in the *Ark*.

HE must plead for Attainders, or Mercy, just as it suits his Master's Conveniency, without the least Regard to *Justice* or *Truth*: And then he must have the Confidence to accuse every Man who differs from him, without having varied in his Way of Acting.

THE Words of such People are no more to be esteemed, than the Speech of a Corrupt Member in a House of Parliament, when he is talking as if he was to be paid, as Hackney-Coachmen, by the Hour.

ALL the Reflections cast in a certain Paper on a Gentleman there call'd *Shatter*, relate to his *Private Life*; and none can suffer from them but himself.

WHEN Men at the Head of Affairs are guilty of Crimes, the whole Kingdom, nay, all *Europe*, may suffer from the meaneſt of their Faults; and they are

to answer for the Welfare of all that live under them.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

*THE Authors of our late Glorious Revolution well knowing the fatal Consequences a Standing Army might have in Time of Peace, took effectual Care (as they then thought) to prevent them.*

*THEY were so apprehensive of an Attempt upon their Liberties, that they refused their Glorious Monarch One Favourite Regiment; though he was so Great and so Known an Assertor of Liberty, and could not possibly be suspected of any Attempts on the Freedom of a Nation in the Defence of which he had risqu'd his Life and Fortune.*

*THERE is not one Instance in History, of a Free State and a Standing Army subsisting long together.*

*THERE are, indeed, many Instances of the Civil Power being destroyed by an Army; particularly during the Usurpation of* Cromwell, *when our Grandfathers were reduced to the most abject Slavery, by a Number of Soldiers much inferior to what has since been seen in Time of Peace.*

*WE are at present in no Danger from our Army, which is so small, That a Scheme to dethrone His M——y, and which was voted by the P——t to*

*be a* dangerous *one, was to have been executed by* Two Hundred Soldiers.

*THE ſmall Number of our Troops is not our only Security: Our Army is under the Command of a Prince in whoſe Hands Mankind might ſafely truſt every Thing that is dear to them.*

*BUT if ever His Majeſty's Affairs ſhould call him into his Foreign Dominions, and a wicked and evil Miniſter ſhould clandeſtinely obtain a Grant to command the Army (in His Abſence) without any Controll, and independant of the Civil Power, How deplorable would our Condition then be!*

*WE ſhould then find, That our Military Power, ſmall as it is, would be ſufficient to keep us in perfect Submiſſion.*

*NOR is it likely, that a Miniſter who ſhould thus poſſeſs himſelf of ſo unwarrantable a Power, would care to reſign it again, even to his Maſter. He would very reaſonably, (on the Reſuming of the Civil Power) fear an Impeachment in Parliament; and he might poſſibly loſe his Head for ſo daring an Attack on the Liberties of his Fellow Subjects.*

I am, SIR,

Your very Humble Servant and Admirer,

M——

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

## NUMB. XIV.

*Degeneres Animos timor arguit.* VIRG.

FRIDAY, JULY 19. 1723.

I HAVE lately read ſome Libels that reflect on a certain Perſon of Quality, as if he were the Author of this Paper. I dare affirm, That thoſe who aſſert that Fact, are Strangers to me; for I am but a Country Gentleman. But I think myſelf obliged to clear my Character from all Accuſations brought againſt any Man, who is ſuſpected of being concerned in this Work.

THE *True Briton* has already done ſome Service to the Publick, ſince he has provok'd the Mercenary and Hackney Scriblers of an abandon'd Faction to entertain the Town with *Domeſtick Abuſes*, and to ſhorten the *Foreign Intelligence*, which generally uſed

to fill their Papers. What they now seem to attempt, Every Body can disprove; but their former Method of Entertaining us with Lyes from Abroad, could not so easily be confuted.

I DID not intend to have troubled my Readers with any Remarks on such impotent Malice as of late has been published: But when I find, That, not content with reviling the Character of the supposed Author, which cannot suffer by the weak Reflections of such Wretches, they grow so wanton in Falsehood, as to contradict Matters of Fact, I cannot forbear offering some few Considerations in Defence of Truth, the greatest Enemy to them and their Party.

THE First and great Accusation against the Person insinuated to have thus delivered his Thoughts, is, That he received a Pension some Time ago, which has of late been stopp'd; and thus they would induce the World to believe, that what I call *Zeal* is purely *Resentment*. But to give a plain Answer to this Insinuation, I protest and declare, That I never had any such Favour from the Crown; and can appeal for the Truth of this, to those whose Province it naturally is to have the Care of the Finances. This, I say, I could do now, were it proper to declare my Name: And this I will do at a more seasonable Time and Place, when Persons able to do me Justice in this Particular, will, I dare say, confess to the Publick my Innocence from that Charge.

I MUST confess, That they have laid a great many Personal Faults to my Door; But their Reflections are only in *Words*, and I am little concerned at

at ſuch a Method of Reviling me. Every Perſon is liable to be thus calumniated; and it is the Duty of every Honeſt Man to deſpiſe this Manner of traducing his Character. The only ſevere Method of convincing the World, that Reputation is really affected, is, When a bare Narrative of undeniable Facts, without any indecent Expreſſions, is conſtrued and called a Scandalous and Traiterous Libel by thoſe concerned in the Tranſactions preſumed to be Villainous. Men who are ſo ſenſible of their own Guilt, as to ſhew a Reſentment on that Occaſion, need give no other Proof of the Truth of what is alledg'd againſt them. All other Ways of Abuſing are Trifles, and Immaterial; and therefore, I ſhall take this Opportunity of declaring, I ſhall not trouble myſelf with ſaying any more on this Subject, but only in General aſſure my Friends, That I never will ſacrifice the *True Intereſt of* OLD ENGLAND to any Cabal; nor depart from the Duties incumbent on me as a Subject, to the beſt of Kings, and a Member of a free Government. Theſe ſhall be always next my Heart and before my Eyes, 'till the Hand of Providence ſtops my Pilgrimage. And what Faults I may have, they ſhall never be to the Publick, nor obſtruct my Zeal for that Prince and Family, which, by all the Ties of Conſcience and Intereſt, we ought to ſupport.

SOME of theſe Papers endeavour to anſwer the Letter ſent to me from a *Whig-Livery-Man*. But, for the Satisfaction of the Citizens of *London*, I ſhall clearly ſhew, That they rather ſtrengthen than invalidate any Arguments brought to prove the precarious Condition of the Liberties of that Great and Populous City.

ONE, who is intirely insignificant, begins a pompous Preamble, that has nothing in it but *Words*; and I shall only confine myself to *Matters of Fact*.

HE insinuates, in his Third Paragraph, That he is a *Foreigner*; and indeed, I am very apt to believe he speaks Truth in this Particular; since he, at the same Time, advances a Principle very unbecoming a Man who would appear a Defender of Liberty. He owns, *That if the City of* London *were to lose their Privileges, he had rather trust them with so excellent a Prince as his Present Majesty, than in the Hands of Mr.* Humphrey Parsons. For my Part, no one can have a more just Sense of our present Happiness in living under so Gracious a Sovereign, than I have; but I must own, Though every Thing is secure in his Hands, yet Time must come, when His Majesty and His Royal Highness, for our Sins, will be taken from us; and then I will declare, I had rather see the Sheriffs of *London*, who are chose by the Citizens, defending their Rights, than see those Rights owing to the Favour of a Court, and liable to be taken away at Pleasure. His Majesty is not at all concerned in the present Dispute; neither do I suppose, any one in Authority would interpose or influence any Persons on this Occasion.

THE King can be no otherwise concerned, than, as a tender Guardian of his People, to maintain the City of *London* in their just Privileges, in Opposition to the Notorious Attempts of the L—— M——; And his Majesty's Ministers are Men of such Honour and

and Integrity, that they cannot be presumed to countenance and advise such unwarrantable Acts.

THIS Writer proceeds next to dispute that which was never yet denied by any Person, That Sir *John Williams* and Mr. *Lockwood* had a Majority in the Common Hall. He casts some vile Reflections on Mr. Alderman *Parsons*, who, by his Steadiness and upright Behaviour at this important Juncture, could expect no less than to draw upon himself the Enmity of such Mercenary Tools.

THE many false Assertions contained throughout the Paper, are too insignificant, and will be too little regarded by Mankind to make an Answer necessary: And that I may not trouble my Readers long with entering into the Particulars of the whole Affair upon which I have lately writ so fully, I shall content myself with referring them to what I have said formerly; and shall only assure them, That on a farther Enquiry, I stated the Facts as they really will appear.

THE Manner in which he represents the Oath of Mr. *Falkingham*, upon whose Credit my Lord Mayor has built his Belief of this Majority, appears to be absolutely false, by the Accounts they have given themselves; for, they only pretend to say, He swears to the best of his Knowledge and Belief; whereas this Scribler presumes to say, His Oath was positive and certain.

THE Quibble, with which they would evade the Demand of a Scrutiny, must occasion some Mirth; for they affirm it only related to the Numbers. But

at

at that Time, the Schemes which were afterwards practiſed, were not contrived; neither had the Lord Mayor and *his* Aldermen then taken the Reſolution of acting contrary to Charter and Preſcription.

THIS Writer allows, that my Lord Mayor refuſed his Precepts; *But*, ſays he, *The Reaſon was, Becauſe thoſe Precepts were only of Uſe as to the Rights and Qualifications of the Voters, and not as to their Numbers.* This Admiſſion is very fair, and plainly ſhews, That the Rights and Qualifications of the Livery-Men were out of the Queſtion, and a Legal Majority the leaſt of their Care. They thought it ſufficient, if, by admitting Clerks of the Poſt-Office and Common Soldiers to Vote, they could carry their Point againſt the Livery-Men of the City; who had no way of Maintaining the Power they had of chooſing their own Sheriffs, but endeavouring to diſcover the many Abuſes which had been practiſed at the Election, and which the Method of carrying on ſuch an Election, made but too eaſy.

THIS *Proceeding*, ſays he, in another Part of his Paper, *if it appeared to any a little extraordinary, is vindicated by the unreaſonable Methods of the Sheriffs, which made it neceſſary.* What a Manner of Argument this is, is ſubmitted to the whole World; And if what they have falſly laid to the Door of the Sheriffs, were true, is it a Reaſon, either in *Juſtice* or *Conſcience*, to induce my L—— M—— and *his* Al——r——n to break through the Charter, and infringe the juſt Rights of his Fellow Citizens? The Law was open to have puniſhed Mr. *Parſons* and Mr. *Child*, if they had acted contrary to it; And I don't

don't doubt but to ſee the Day, when Sir *G*——, *C*——, with his pretended Sheriffs, will be put in Mind, that we live in a free Government, where Oppreſſion is Odious; and where their Proceedings will be ſhewn in their proper Colours.

HE admits, *that the By-Laws only provided in Caſe of Diſputes between the Two Sheriffs*; But he ſays, *They could not imagine Sheriffs would return a Minority on the Poll.* This, I think, is pretty extraordinary, to juſtify an Action which he confeſſes is contrary to Law; which Law can be repealed by no Inferior Authority to that which Enacted it. In this Place he makes a Trifle of thoſe Clauſes mentioned in a former Paper; but when he come to confeſs, That Sir *John Williams* and Mr. *Lockwood* were willing to wave that Clauſe which fixes a Time for the Scrutiny, in order to go through the Examination fully and impartially, he aſſerts, It was not in their Power to wave *any Part* of it; though my L—— M—— has reſolutely ventured to deſtroy the *Whole*. He then declares, That he will be try'd by a Jury of Citizens: But I would have him be better aſſured, that the Pretenders *H*——*ns* and *F*——*ſt* will be confirmed in their Office, before he ſubmits to ſuch a Tryal: For if ever this Scribler or his Maſters come to appear before Twelve Impartial Honeſt Men, I believe they would have what moſt People would eſteem *Juſtice*.

I SHALL never more give myſelf the leaſt Trouble of anſwering, or ſo much as mentioning any of their malicious Reflections for the future; but ſhall continue to lay Truth open in the beſt Manner that my

my Capacity will permit: And as for the Noble Perſon ſo falſly accuſed of being turned Author of *late*, I believe he rather receives Joy than Diſpleaſure, to find himſelf treated by the Faction with the ſame Inveteracy that they bear to the Liberties of their Country.

THIS late Step relating to the Sheriffs, ſufficiently juſtifies thoſe worthy Men who oppoſed Sir *G*—— *C*—— being L— M—; and could the City have foreſeen the Calamities which have been the Fruits of his *Reign*, I make no manner of Doubt but that, had he been Elected in that Office, it would have been by the Court of Aldermen *only*, and in Oppoſition to a *Legal Majority*.

TO get a Number of People in their Court, they were forc'd to apply to Sir *H*—*t M*—*rs* (a late *South Sea* Director) to act on this Occaſion; Who has been uſed to this kind of Behaviour in the Management of that deſtructive Scheme.

OUR L— M—, from the Abundance of his Zeal, refuſes ſtill to ſwear Sir *John Williams* Alderman of *Cripplegate Ward*; though he has admitted him to be firſt on the Poll. So unwillingly can *they* do Juſtice, who only talk of it; and think it ſufficient to be flatter'd by their Creatures, and paid by their Maſters.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XV.

——— *Simili frondeſcit Virga* Metallo. VIRG.

MONDAY, JULY 22. 1723.

THERE is not any one Conſideration, that reflects more Honour on the preſent wiſe and virtuous Adminiſtration, than the ſupplying every Vacancy in the Ep — l Bench with ſuch *inimitable* Perſonages, as are at once the *Surprize* of other Nations, and the *Curioſities* of our Own.

IF we regard them in their Scholaſtick, and Sacerdotal Qualifications, where ſhall we find, in ſo ſmall a Number of Men, ſo many *Prodigies* of Learning, and Ability? It muſt be allowed indeed, that many of their Predeceſſors equalled them in *Compoſure*, but all Impartial Criticks concur, that none of them had Talents half ſo well adapted to *Tranſlation*. Whilſt he, whoſe Company they a little while ago, with

with ſo much *Prudence*, as well as *Juſtice*, rejected, was confeſſedly *not upon a Level* with them in either.

IF we regard them again in their Political Capacities, as L——s of P——t, we ſhall find them, in the moſt diſintereſted Manner, giving their Suffrages for the Good of their Country, and the *Miniſtry*; and this too, not by *Couples* or *Leaſes*, but by *Scores*, almoſt, at a Time. And it ought to be tranſmitted to Poſterity in indelible Characters, that to their Zeal and Aſſiduity in ſome late P——tary Affairs, is principally owing that Unanimity obſervable at preſent among all Ranks of People, from the *Land's End* to the *Orkneys*. Such an Unanimity, as this Nation was hardly ever bleſs'd with before! For ſince the Departure of the late *Biſhop of Rocheſter* into Exile, 'tis univerſally agreed on, That there is one Man now Abroad, whom no Man deſires to ſee come back again.

BUT I would not have my Country-men believe, that to have ſo venerable a Body of Men for their Paſtors, is a Bleſſing common to other Countries as well as our own. No, 'tis the peculiar Felicity of *Engliſhmen*. The Reformation indeed, has been ſo far beneficial, even to thoſe Countries which yet retain the old Superſtition, that their Biſhops, ſince that Time, have been much leſs exceptionable, either as to Innocence, or Literature, than before. A little before, and about the Time, that the Light of the Reformation began to dawn, there was not ſuch a Pack of abject Wretches in the World as the Eccleſiaſticks of moſt Countries. To confirm this, I ſhall oblige the Curious with Part of a Manuſcript I pick'd up

up in my Travels into *Spain*. I think I had it in the *Franciscans* Library at *Madrid*. It had no Date, but it is plain it could not be writ a great many Centuries ago.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

'Having finished what I had to say on State Affairs, 'I come now to the Churchmen of this Reign, which 'I shall describe with that Openness and Freedom, 'as becomes a Candid Historian; and the rather, 'because none of my Cotemporaries, who wrote to 'publish, have dared to take Notice of them in their 'Writings.

'THE Doctrines of *Martin Luther* having made 'considerable Progress in *Germany* and other Parts, 'and perverted many well-meaning Christians from 'the Catholick Faith, it was high Time for the '*Spanish Ministry* to take Umbrage, *and proceed in* 'an extraordinary Manner against the Propagators of 'new Opinions, and unreceived Tenets. There was 'at this Time an eminent Father of the Church, the '*Bishop of Tortosa*, who publickly espoused several 'Doctrines, which were thought to favour of the 'New Heresy, and for which, *Don Ferdinando*, who 'was at this Time Comptroller of the *Finances*, and 'Prime Minister of *Spain*, a Mortal Enemy of the '*Bishop*'s, resolved to summon him before the Inqui-'sition. The Inquisition at this Time consisted of 'such mean Creatures, that most People thought '*Don Ferdinando* had placed them there, for no other 'Reason but to make the *Sant' Officio* appear con-'temptible and ridiculous to the whole World. 'Tis 'certain, he had no manner of Regard for them, any

'far-

'farther than they ſerved his *Political* Purpoſes. 'Having ordered them one Morning to attend him at 'his Levee, he thus beſpoke them.

"*YOU remember, Venerable Fathers, and remember, I hope, with Reſentment and Indignation, how ſome Years ago that Apoſtate Doctor the* Biſhop of Tortoſa, *broach'd that impious and abſurd Hereſy, That* Quadrupedes had four Feet; *and now of late again, to the great Scandal of Religion, and his holy Function, he has revived that damnable Doctrine and Poſition, That* Two and Two make Four. *For which abominable and Antichriſtian Tenets —— If I don't cruſh him —— If I don't ſqueeze him, even to Deſtruction —— may I never more count Publick Money on a Gridiron; or, which is the ſame Thing, May not one kind Piſtole drop through when I do. —— May this Arm be never more extended to* receive, —— *nor this to* give. —— *In a Word, May this* Right Hand forget its Cunning.

"*IT will appear to you likewiſe, Venerable Fathers, as clear as the Sun at Noon-Day,* without any manner of Proof, *that a private Correſpondence has long been carried on between the* Biſhop *and* Martin Luther.

"*YOU remember, that you will be on this Occaſion in your* Inquiſitive, *not* Epiſcopal Capacities, *and that the Holy Inquiſition* does not follow Precedents, but makes them. —— *But enough —— Take Notice I have* whiſtled. —— *Adieu.*

'HAVING

'HAVING deliberated on this Matter among 'themſelves very maturely, they returned him an 'Anſwer next Day by Letter, in the following 'Words.

## *To his Excellency* Don Ferdinando *real Biſhop of Nineteen* Spaniſh Dioceſſes.

"WE *your Excellency's* Right Reverend Drudges, "*the* Titular *Cardinal Archbiſhop, and the* "*reſt of the Biſhops*, commonly ſo called, *beg leave to* "*aſſure you, That we are fully ſatisfied and convinced*, "before we know any Thing of the Matter, *that a* "*private Correſpondence has long been carried on be-*"*tween the Biſhop of* Tortoſa *and* Martin Luther. "*We beg leave likewiſe to expreſs our hearty Abhor-*"*rence and Deteſtation of that damnable Doctrine* "*and Poſition, That* Quadrupedes have Four Feet. "*And we ſolemnly affirm to your Excellency, That we* "*believe, from the very Bottom of our Hearts, that* "Two and Two makes Fifteen; *and if ever we alter* "*our Opinion*, 'till your Excellency does ſo too, *the* "*Devil take us and our Poſterity to the* Nineteenth "*Generation. So help us* G——. *We remain ever* "obſequious to your Excellency's Whiſtle.

"*The Archbiſhop and Biſhops Inquiſitors.*

'IT ought to be obſerved, That before the Biſhop 'had a Hearing in the Inquiſition, *Don Ferdinando*, 'to put a better Gloſs on the Affair, and that it 'might not appear to be the ſole Act of the Inquiſitors,

'had convened together ſome Hundreds of his Crea-
'tures of a *Lower* Claſs, who, as ſoon as *Don Ferdi-*
'*nando* had courteouſly given each of them *his Hand*,
'came to the following *Determinations.*

"*DETERMINED*, That the Biſhop of
"*Tortoſa* has been long imploy'd in carrying on an
"Impious and Heretical Correſpondence with *Martin*
"*Luther*; and this Opinion we are firmly reſolved to
"live and die in, in ſpite of *Truth*, *Reaſon*, *Evidence*
"and *Demonſtration.*

"*DETERMINED*, That the *Biſhop* may
"have a Day, to *defend* himſelf againſt the ſaid Ac-
"cuſation.

'THE *Biſhop* ſmiled at the *Conſiſtency* of theſe
'Determinations, but took no farther Notice of them,
'referring himſelf wholly to the Inquiſitors.

'AT length came the Day appointed for his De-
'fence before the Inquiſition. He began with ob-
'ſerving to them, How improper a Seaſon it was for
'any Man, at that Time of Day, to publiſh his
'Belief of that deteſted Doctrine, that *Two and Two*
'*make Four.* "But the Queſtion, ſays he, does not
"turn on this Point, whether *I believe* it or not, but
"whether I have *publiſhed* ſuch my Belief: And,
"*Reverend Bretheren*, I ſhould be glad to be inform-
"ed what Evidence you have of this, *viz.* of my
"having publiſhed that *Two and Two make Four*?
"Why, ſays the Cardinal Archbiſhop, this is *plainly*
"*proved*, from your having correſponded with *Martin*
"*Luther*? But how, Reverend Brother, ſays the
"Biſhop,

" Biſhop, does it appear I have correſponded with " *Martin Luther*? Why this is *plain enough*, replies " the Archbiſhop, from your Publiſhing, that *Two* " *and Two make Four:* They are the *corroborating and* " *concurrent Proofs* of one another. Beſides, you " have here the Opinion of ſeveral *Magi* from whoſe " unerring Rules, *becauſe we don't underſtand them*, " we are fully perſuaded of your Guilt.

' THE *Magi* were then ordered to come in, and ' explain a certain Paper, which, it was pretended, ' the Biſhop had formerly dropt out of his Pocket; ' and though he had, it contained nothing but ſome ' rough Schemes of Geometry and Mathematicks: ' However it was an eaſy Matter to explain it into ' *Hereſy*. The *Magi* began with acquainting the *In-* ' *quiſitors*, That having travelled quite through the ' Moon and Planets, their *Omniſcience* in ſublunary ' Affairs was not to be conteſted: " And, ſay they, " our Explanations of the Hieroglyphicks in this " Heretical Paper, You *will certainly* allow, as ſoon " as heard, to be the moſt juſt and natural in the " World, *though you neither know why nor wherefore,* " *nor ever ſhall.* The firſt Mark of any Importance " in this Paper, Holy Fathers, we find to be a Figure " of 10. Now it being certain, that *Martin Luther* " has juſt Ten Fingers on his Hands, no more nor no " leſs, it *amounts to a Certainty*, that this Figure of " 10 cannot poſſibly ſtand for any Body elſe but him. " *Demonſtration by G*——! cries out the Cardinal " Archbiſhop. The next Figure that occurs, is a " Triangle: Now this Triangle having juſt *Three* " *Corners*, and being marked upon Paper, muſt ſigni- " fy, according to the Rules of our *occult* Science,

" *Three thouſand Heretical Pamphlets*, which were " doubtleſs *remitted* to the Biſhop by *Martin Luther*, " and intruſted to his Diſpoſal." There was nothing ' heard now but a loud Vociferation of *Away with* ' *him*, *Away with him*! *Crucify Him*, *Crucify Him*! ' And voted to Crucifixion he had certainly been, if ' *Don Ferdinando* had not intimated, that it would ' be ſufficient for his Reſentment, if he was only ' thrown into the Sea.

' THUS fell, amidſt the Sighs and Tears of the ' whole *Spaniſh* Nation, this moſt learned and ex- ' cellent Prelate, a Sacrifice to the *vindictive* Ill-nature ' of ſome implacable Court-Favourites; and this for ' no other real Cauſe, but becauſe he would not pa- ' tiently ſubmit to be one of the *Jowlers* or *Ringwoods* ' of *Don Ferdinando*.

' THERE was one Circumſtance, the Day of ' his Execution, too material to be omitted. While ' the poor Biſhop was yet ſtanding on the *Cliff*, pati- ' ently expecting his Doom, the *little Ebony Doctor* ' came up to Him, to take his laſt Farewel. *Dear* ' *Brother*, ſays He, *I with all my Soul commiſerate* ' *your Sufferings*, *which*, *to the beſt of my poor Abilities*, ' *I have all along* —— *heartily promoted*. *But for* ' *this Mitre*, *dear Brother* —— *this Mitre* —— *will* ' *certainly incommode you in Swimming*. *Give me* ' *leave to take it off*, *and wear it for your ſake*. Ac- ' cordingly he took it off from the *departing Biſhop*'s ' Head, and put it on his own. And wear it he long ' did, amidſt the loud and univerſal *Acclamations* of ' the *Spaniſh* Nation; ſuch was his inviolable At- ' tachment to his King, his Country, and his *Spelling-*

' *Book*!

'*Book!* Such his invariable Affection to *Letters* and '*Poach'd Eggs!*

MY *Spaniſh* Author proceeds next to ſeveral Particulars relating to *Don Ferdinando*, whoſe Name he had ſo often had Occaſion to mention, and which are not to be met with in the ordinary Hiſtories of that Time. As, How he lived in great Splendor and Magnificence, never going out a Hunting, without Eighteen or Twenty Biſhops to ſaddle his Horſe; half a hundred *Condes* and other Grandees, to hold his Stirrup, and above Three hundred Grooms of a *lower* Rank for meaner Offices. Of his great Generoſity. How he made a Preſent of a Coach and Six to every Man in *Spain*, whoſe *Name* began and ended with the ſame Letters that his did. How he was named to go Ambaſſador to the Court of *England*, but he refuſed going thither. How afterwards, the King obliged him to accept of it. How the firſt Thing he did, on his Arrival there, was to ſet a *Scotch Knight* and an *Engliſh Lord* by the Ears together, and then laugh at them for their Pains: How the ſaid *Scotch Knight* and *Engliſh Lord* went to Boxing *privately* in the *Middle of the Day*, and in Preſence of a Thouſand Witneſſes. How there was a *cruel Three-legged Monſter* inhabited within a Mile Weſtward of *London*, out of the Suburb of St. *Giles's*, which the Natives were forced to appeaſe every *Six Weeks*, and ſometimes oftner, with *Human Gore*. How great Numbers of *Don Ferdinando's Retinue* narrowly eſcaped this *Monſter*. How *Don Ferdinando* had a Son called *Don Jeronimo*. How he ſent him into *France*, *Germany*, *Italy*, and other Countries to *poliſh* himſelf. How at his firſt Audience of the Politeſt Sovereign

Prince of his Age, this *Don Jerry* preſented himſelf in a Riding-Coat, a Piſs-burnt Wigg, and a dirty Pair of Boots. How *Don Jerry* travelled with a Fox along with him in his Chaiſe, which he uſed to hunt every Morning as ſoon as he was up, in his Chamber at *Naples*, and other Places. How, after many other ſignal Atchievements, for the Glory of the *Spaniſh* Nation, the *Advantage* of the Catholick Faith, and the *Honour* of his *Illuſtrious* Family, this *hopeful young Man* was declared *Grandee of Spain* by the *ſpecial* Favour of his Catholick Majeſty; an Honour his *Virtuous* Patent, out of *mere Modeſty*, refuſed. —— With many other curious Particularities I am not now at Leiſure to tranſlate.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR*,

THE Loſs of the *Roman* Liberty, after the Battle of *Pharſalia*, is very pathetically bewail'd by *Lucan* in his *Seventh Book*. All True Lovers of Freedom will, I believe, be as much affected with the Paſſage as I am; and therefore I hope you will print it. I ſend it you in *Rowe*'s Paraphraſe, for the Benefit of your *Engliſh* Readers.

Immortal Gods! with what reſiſtleſs Force
Our *Growing* Empire ran its rapid Courſe?
But now, behold, how Fortune tears away
The Gift of Ages in *one Fatal Day!*
Our Father's fertile Fields by *Slaves* are till'd,
And *Rome* with *Dregs of Foreign Lands* is fill'd.

*Dear*

*Dear Liberty!* long weary'd by our Crimes,
Forſakes us for ſome *better, barbarous Climes.*
While *Rome*, who long purſu'd that Chiefeſt Good,
O'er Fields of Slaughter, and through Seas of Blood,
In *Slavery* her abject State muſt mourn,
And ſcarce dare hope the Goddeſs will return.
*Why were we ever Free?* Oh! why has Heav'n
A *ſhort-liv'd tranſitory Bleſſing* giv'n?
*Medes* and *Arabians* of the Slaviſh Eaſt,
Beneath Eternal Bondage may be Bleſt:
While, *of a Diff'ring Mould and Nature, we*
*From Sire to Son accuſtom'd to be Free,*
*Feel Indignation riſing in our Blood,*
*And* Bluſh *to wear the Chains that make them* Proud.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XVI.

*Dî Patrii, ſervate domum, ſervate nepotem:*
*Veſtrum hoc augurium, veſtroque in numine Troja eſt.*
VIRG.

FRIDAY, JULY 26. 1723.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

AS *Publick Credit* has the greateſt Tendency to the *Publick Benefit*, to which great End all your Elegant Labours ſeem to be calculated, I doubt not but you will permit the following Thoughts upon this Subject to appear in your Paper.

PUBLICK CREDIT is that Credit amongſt Men by which the Publick, in a great Meaſure, ſubſiſts, and the Body of the People grow Rich and Powerful; for,

for, as particular Perſons, in their ſeveral Callings and Stations, riſe to be wealthy by the Influence of *Private Credit*, ſo does the Nation in General grow Great and Proſperous by *Publick Credit*.

EITHER in the one Caſe or the other, there muſt be an *Appearance* of Honeſty, at leaſt, to raiſe this Credit to any conſiderable Height, ſo as to be laſting. The People or Nation that are Ambitious of it, ſhould bear the niceſt Reputation in the World; They muſt be Men of Morals and Manners; of Honour and Integrity; Wiſdom and Penetration; Fidelity and Impartiality, and have every commendable Quality which embelliſhes Mankind: So Blameleſs muſt they be in their Lives and Converſations, as not to be ſuſpected capable of an Ill Action.

CONSIDERING the many great Requiſites to *Publick Credit*, it is not to be admired, That every Reign and every Climate is not attended with it: If ſuch Men ſhould be at the Helm of a Government, who, inſtead of convincing the Publick, that all their Actions are for the Publick Welfare, ſhould point out, in every Step of their Conduct, they are againſt the Publick: Who, inſtead of acting Steadily for the Good and Benefit of the People, ſhould act in Concert, with unſhaken Steadineſs, for the Good of *Themſelves*, and give up the People: Who, refuſing to countenance *all* the Subjects of any Kingdom or Country, ſhould careſs and protect the *feweſt* of the Subjects, and thoſe *Harpies* and *Sharpers*, and treat contemptuouſly a Majority of them, *known* to be Honeſt; Who, inſtead of Interpoſing their Authority to quiet the Minds of Malecontents to their Government, ſhould take all

Op-

Opportunities to excite Jealouſies and Suſpicions in the Populace; Then, indeed, *Publick Credit* would be in a very Languiſhing Condition.

BUT it is the Happineſs of *England*, (which boaſts of ſo many peculiar Bleſſings) to know no ſuch Men, and no ſuch Government: Our Miniſters in Power vigorouſly act for the Publick Welfare, excluſive of any *private* Views to *themſelves*; They are ſteady to the Intereſt of His Majeſty, and thereby of His People, and intirely *unmindful* of their own; they countenance and prefer all Sorts of Perſons who are *Deſerving*, without the *leaſt* Diſtinction of Parties; they Rule by a *Majority* of thoſe whoſe *nice Honour* and *very great Integrity*, ſets them above Bribery and Penſions; they endeavour to quiet the Minds of the Subjects, by demonſtrating their *ſincere* Intentions to ſecure their Properties. In ſhort, Their whole Conduct is free from Suſpicion, that they have any Deſigns upon the Liberty of the People.

IF this be our envied Caſe at this happy Juncture, I hope no one will be ſo very Audacious, and ſo much abandon'd to the Good of his Country, as to impute to theſe Times a Loſs of *Publick Credit*; eſpecially when at preſent our Revenues are in ſo flouriſhing a Condition; when ſuch effectual Care is taken for Payment of the Publick Debts; when our Stocks upon the *Royal Exchange* are Riſing; and when the Intereſt of Money all over the Kingdom is Sinking; and when we have ſo much Faith and Confidence in one another, as to truſt our Treaſure even in the Hands of Aliens, upon Perſonal Security.

IT

IT is not long ſince our *South-Sea* Stock aroſe to the Glorious Price of One thouſand *per Cent.* And all by the excellent *Oeconomy* of our Honeſt Managers then in Being, and the great Advance of *Publick Credit.* And when our Wiſe and Prudent Governors (who had not the *leaſt Share* in the Misfortunes and Plunder of the Times) ſaw that National Credit was grown too Rampant, and the *Harpies* of the *Alley* had precipitately puſh'd it on to its Ruin, ſo *dreadfully* they puniſh'd the Authors of our Miſeries, that they did not vouchſafe to allow the moſt Innocent Offenders, who deſerv'd the utmoſt from their Hands, above the *trifling* Sum of *Thirty thouſand* Pounds to furniſh them with *Bread* and *Water*; and other *common* Neceſſaries of Life.

TO the Immortal Honour of theſe Times, be it ſaid, That there never before was any *South-Sea* Stock brought to the immenſe Value of One Thouſand *per Cent.* To the Honour of all former Times be it mentioned, we never 'till lately, had a *South-Sea Schem*, to ſtrip the Publick of every Thing *dear* to them, and lift to Honour the Dregs of the People.

WHEN Perſons in any Government or Adminiſtration, are but liable to *Suſpicion*, *Publick Credit* inſtantly dwindles. A Miniſter of State is no ſooner ſuſpected by the People, than he is a *Clog* to Credit. When a Man has forfeited the Good Opinion the World had conceived of him, nothing he does will be attended with Proſperity. If his Talents to govern are never ſo extenſive, yet he'll ever have the Mortification to find his Undertakings Abortive. At

the

the ſame Time, a Perſon of far leſs Abilities, though much *greater* Honeſty, ſhall Influence *Credit*, and bring it to the utmoſt Height, conſiſtent with the Publick Good.

OF this, I could bring innumerable and undoubted Teſtimonies in our former Reigns, ſome whereof I ſhall hereafter take the Liberty to mention; but as to the Preſent Times, I ſhall be wholly ſilent, leſt by my *Encomiums* on the Honeſty and Integrity of ſome Perſons in Being, I ſhould leſſen their Credit as to their Governing Capacity.

*PUBLICK CREDIT* is like a Fair Virtuous Miſtreſs, coy, and cautiouſly to be dealt with. So long as her Chaſtity remains, She is the Delight and Honour of Mankind; but when once the Fence of Virtue is pluck'd down, and ſhe becomes a common Proſtitute, every one is in Danger from his Approaches to her. This Alluſion is inconteſtably Juſt; and the *South-Sea* Project is ſufficiently and abundantly confirming, that no Proſtitution is ſo fatal to the People, as that of *Publick Credit*.

IN all National Projects, there ſhould be ſomething *Reaſonable* and *Honeſt* propos'd to the People for the Support of *Credit*, without which it cannot ſubſiſt; But we have ſeen the Time, when neither *Senſe*, *Reaſon*, *Honeſty*, nor *Common Humanity*, have been ſo much as thought of by ſome Perſons once in Power.

THIS is highly evident in the Conduct of the late *South-Sea* Directors (I am not ſo preſumptuous to fix

fix it on any others) and will be eternally evident, ſo long as *Avarice* and *Ambition* have the Upper-Hand of *Honour* and *Honeſty*.

*I am, SIR,*

*Your Humble Servant,*

POLITICUS.

THIS Letter was received ſome time ſince, and I think it my Duty to convey into the World every thing which ſeems calculated for the Publick Good, and with which I am judged proper to be intruſted.

I WAS reading the other Day ſome other Parts of the *Spaniſh Manuſcript*, from whoſe Authentick Account of his Times, I hope to be able to inform my Readers of the miſerable Situation under which the *Spaniards* laboured during the violent Government of *Don Ferdinando* and his Creatures.

THERE is in many Paſſages great Mention made of a noted Lawyer, who at that Time was Penſioner to the Court, as it appears plainly, by his natural Diſpoſition, he would have been to any Court, any Prince or any Cauſe, where he might have a probable Security for the Payment of his Salary.

AS to his Religion, it was generally agreed he had none, as was allow'd by his own Friends, who pleaded his *Atheiſm* in Excuſe for his various Turns: Upon his firſt Entrance into the World, he was call'd a *Calviniſt*, 'till, being advanc'd by the Faction which then preſided, he declared himſelf a *Papiſt*: But ſoon after

after the Demiſe of the Perſon who had raiſed him, he turned *Lutheran*.

WHEN *Don Ferdinando* found it neceſſary to ruin the Biſhop of *Tortoſa*, he could not find out a more proper Inſtrument to draw up the Evidence againſt that unfortunate Prelate than this *Simoni*, who, like *Polonius* in the Play, would call the ſame Cloud a *Camel*, a *Weaſel* and a *Whale*.

THIS Lawyer determined to be well rewarded for his Pains: And accepted of a Penſion of 4000 Piſtoles *per Annum*, to betray his Friend, his Party, and his God, which laſt he ſeem'd to eſteem the leaſt, and gave up without much Reluctance.

*FERDINANDO* had another View in admitting this Perſon into the Council; for he hop'd, That as *Simoni* was at the Head of the Honeſt Party that oppoſed his Meaſures, he ſhould be able to break into them; and that the ſame Means would prevail on ſome other Chiefs as had the ſame Corrupt Views; and this wicked Miniſter juſtly thought, that a Diſunion amongſt the *True Spaniards* would impower him eaſily to execute his Schemes.

BUT, to the eternal Honour of thoſe Great Men who oppoſed his deſtructive Deſigns, they all remain'd firmly united to the Honeſt Intereſt, and plainly ſhew'd, That it was not in the Power of *Simoni*, nor any other Renegado, to ſow Diviſion, or influence any of their Actions.

*SIMONI*

*SIMONI* was reſpected when he was at the Head of the Majority of the Kingdom; but when he fell from *Light to Darkneſs*, he only convinced Mankind, That Wit, Learning, and Eloquence, if not ſupported by Honeſty and Integrity, inſtead of being Ornaments to Virtue, become the moſt dangerous Inſtruments of Vice.

IT is remarkable, that this Wretch was once a great Favourite of the Clergy, and liv'd near the Univerſity of *Toledo*. They eſteem'd him their great Patron, 'till they perceived their Infatuation, and that he was only getting them in his Power, in order to ſell them.

HE had ever lived in ſtrict Intimacy with the Biſhop of *Torteſa*; and yet, without the leaſt Demurr, he chearfully undertook to endeavour his Deſtruction; and at the ſame Time, was privately inſinuating, That he would ſave him at the laſt; and theſe Aſſurances he gave all the Time of that Biſhop's Tryal, whilſt he was treating him with Indecency and Barbarity.

OUR Author informs us, That great Endeavours were us'd to engage the Biſhop to remain peaceable, and be ſubſervient to their Pleaſures; But he ſcorn'd their vile Menaces, and refus'd their Offers. He thought it was more conſiſtent with his Function and his Principles, to appear Innocent, than become Rich.

AND,

AND, rather than ſuffer this Great Man to lie under a Neceſſity of yielding to his Enemies, there would not have been wanting many Grandees, who would chearfully have contributed to his Relief; and who had Spirit enough to have given away *that* for which the reſt were ſelling their Country.

OUR Author tells us, That there was at that Time a Perſon who publiſh'd ſeveral notorious Truths, which affected *Ferdinando*; and this Miniſter's Actions could only be protected from Cenſure by being concealed: That this Man was taken up by the Inquiſition, and ſeverely threatned for daring to inform the World of undeniable Matters of Fact: But he at the ſame Time remarks, That this Author purſu'd his Intentions with undaunted Courage, and publickly declared, He would own the Cauſe of his King and Country, even in the midſt of the Flames, if the Inquiſition ſhould perſecute him to ſo great a Degree, and treat him as they had done many Honeſt Men. For *Ferdinando* and his Crew thought thoſe were Crimes, which others would think Virtues.

HE alſo mentions, That this *Ferdinando* had a Brother, whoſe Name was *Don Lazerillo*, of whom he relates many diverting Particulars. He ſays, It was his Alliance to the Prime Miniſter, that drew him into thoſe wicked Meaſures that he ſeem'd to favour. —— There is one Remark that is made of his good Senſe, which was, That whenever he ſpoke in Publick, he was the firſt that laugh'd at his own Words.

THERE

THERE are a great many other Particulars which ſhall be mentioned in other Papers relating to General *Caſoſigo*, and another inſignificant weak Wretch, who acted almoſt as bad as *Simoni*, only wanted his Capacity, and being leſs uſeful, was more deſpiſed. Theſe two differ'd in ſome Points from *Don Ferdinando*.

I SHALL entertain the Town with theſe Gentlemen hereafter; but ſhall conclude this Paper with ſaying, that my Author takes Notice, That *Ferdinando* and the Partners of his Crimes, appeared like a Gang of Thieves, who always quarrel about dividing the Booty, but unite whenever there is a Robbery or Murder to be committed.

THE

# TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XVII.

*Aliena opprobria sæpe*
*Absterrent vitiis.* HOR.

MONDAY, JULY 29. 1723.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

THE good Effect of the Papers you have published for the Service of your Country, is already visible: But what does principally recommend them, is, The *Facts* so justly apply'd by you, in prosecuting your Great and truly Noble Design. For, to Men who are less capable of attending to Reason, or who will not submit to her Decisions, there is no other Way of accommodating ourselves, in order to *disabuse* or *convince* them, than by laying before them such

ſuch ſenſible Proofs, from *known* Characters or Tranſactions, as cannot be deny'd, and which no Art can either invalidate or evade.

SHOULD we, therefore, ever happen to live, which Providence avert! in an Age, when, inſtead of conſulting Reaſon, Men ſhould attempt to govern, or ignominiouſly ſubmit to be governed, by an Arbitrary Force; when, diſclaiming the good old *Proteſtant* Way of Arguing, or judging for themſelves from the Common Principles of Reaſon, they ſhould be obliged to regulate their Judgments, as they do in *Popiſh* Countries, upon *Pain of Military Execution*, or under the Awe of an *Inquiſition*, whether *Civil* or *Eccleſiaſtical*: (For if I am to ſuffer, in any Caſe, for obeying Reaſon, and aſſerting her Authority, it is the ſame thing to me, by what Means, or by what Inſtruments, I ſuffer;) If this, I ſay, ſhould ever happen to be the Caſe, that Men were no longer to be permitted to ſpeak or write as *Reaſon* ſhould direct; Yet even under ſuch Slaviſh Circumſtances, the *violent Methods* imploy'd to deſtroy the Common Rights of Mankind, would ſtill remain as ſo many ſtanding Monuments of *Perſecution* and *Injuſtice*; and Poſterity, diſintereſted in ſuch Methods, would judge of them in a very different Light from that wherein the blind Prejudices or Paſſions of Men, had before repreſented them.

TO illuſtrate this, in your own Way, by a ſhort Account of thoſe Two corrupt Miniſters in the Reign of *Henry* VII. *Empſon* and *Dudleigh*: While they acted under the Commiſſion of that King, the Powers whereof they yet notoriouſly exceeded, they were

under no Apprehenſions of being call'd to Account for their Scandalous Proceedings; neither did there appear any certain Way of coming at them; ſo that Men were obliged to ſubmit to the Deſpotick Power they aſſumed, and to make the beſt Compoſition they could for the exorbitant Mulcts theſe rapacious Harpies uſed to inflict upon them. Even thoſe Perſons who were too conſiderable to be immediately affected by their Depredations, were ſo over-aw'd by the Arrogance of the Men, and Apprehenſions of the Authority under which they appeared to act, that they had not the Reſolution and Bravery, which might have been expected from the Spirit of *True Engliſhmen*, openly to arraign them; dreading, perhaps, that if they ſhould have had the Courage to impeach the Male Adminiſtration of theſe Men, altho' in a Houſe of Parliament, they might poſſibly incur ſome ſevere Cenſure in the very Place where they would rather have deſerved Statues to be erected to their Glory.

AND if, under the Reign of *ſo wiſe*, *ſo active*, and (as Lord *Bacon* repreſents him) ſo *merciful* a Prince, the Influence of theſe Two Men was ſo great, as to prevent any Publick or Parliamentary Accuſations againſt them, what a diſmal Proſpect would a Nation have, if in any future Time, (for at preſent we can be under no ſuch Apprehenſions) the like Inſtruments of Tyranny ſhould be imployed by a Prince of leſs ſhining Qualifications than *Henry* VII.?

I SHALL here tranſcribe the Characters which the great Lord *Bacon* has given of *Empſon* and *Dudleigh*, not only as more juſt than I can pretend to draw 'em, but becauſe he could be ſuppoſed to have no other

other View in them, than to inſtruct Poſterity, How precarious in the Event, even the Supports of Royal Favour are to thoſe who have notoriouſly abuſed it. There being not the leaſt Reſemblance between *theſe Two*, and any *Living Characters* of *Diſtinction*, I have nothing farther to do, than to give the Words of that Noble Lord, without any Reflection upon them. *Hiſtory* Hen. VII. *p.* 119, 120.

'AS Kings do more eaſily find Inſtruments for 'their *Will* and *Humour*, than for their *Service* and '*Honour*, He (King *Henry* VII.) had gotten for his 'Purpoſe, or beyond his Purpoſe, Two Inſtruments, '*Empſon* and *Dudleigh*, whom his People eſteemed 'as his *Horſe leeches* and *Shearers*; bold Men, care-'leſs of *Fame*, and that took *Toll* of their Maſter's 'Griſt. *Dudleigh* was of a good Family, Eloquent, 'and one who could put *hateful* Buſineſs into good 'Language. But *Empſon*, that was the Son of a '*Sieve-maker*, triumph'd always upon the *Deed done*, 'putting off all other Reſpects whatever. Theſe 'two Perſons being Lawyers in Science, and *Privy-'Counſellors* in *Authority*, as *the Corruption of the beſt 'Things is the Worſt*, turned *Law* and *Juſtice* into '*Wormwood* and *Rapine*; For firſt, Their Manner was, 'to cauſe divers Subjects to be indicted of ſundry 'Crimes, and ſo far forth to proceed in Form of *Law:* 'But when the Bills were found, then preſently to 'commit them; and nevertheleſs not to produce 'them to any reaſonable Time to their *Anſwer*; but 'to ſuffer them to languiſh in Priſon, and by ſundry 'artificial *Devices* and *Terrors*, to extort from them 'great *Fines* and *Ranſoms*, which they termed *Com-'poſitions* and *Mitigations*.

'NEITHER did they, towards the End, observe ſo much as the *Half-face* of *Juſtice*, in proceeding by *Indictment*; But ſent forth their Precepts to attach Men, and convene them before themſelves, and ſome others, at their private Houſes, in a Court of *Commiſſion*; and there uſed to ſhuffle up a *Summary Proceeding*, by *Examination*, without Tryal of *Jury*, aſſuming to themſelves there both to deal in *Pleas* of the *Crown*, and *Controverſies Civil*.

'THEY would alſo ruffle with *Jurors*, and inforce them to find as they would direct; and if they did not, convene them, impriſon them, and fine them.

'THESE and many other Courſes, fitter to be bury'd than repeated, they had of preying upon the *People*, both like *Tame Hawks* for their Maſter, and like *Wild Hawks* for Themſelves; inſomuch as they grew to great Riches and Subſtance. But their principal Working was upon *Penal Laws*, wherein they ſpared none, Great nor Small, nor conſidered whether the Law was poſſible or impoſſible, in *Uſe* or *Obſolete*; but raked over all Old and New Statutes, though many of them were made with Intention rather of *Terror*, than *Rigour*; having ever a Rabble of *Promoters*, *Queſtmongers* (or *Informers*) and leading *Jurors* at their Command, ſo as they could have any thing found, either for *Fact* or *Valuation*.

*I am*, SIR,

*Yours*, &c.

IT

IT is a great Misfortune to any Country where Magiſtrates are governed by Favour or Reſentment.

WHEN a Perſon takes upon himſelf the Execution of Juſtice, he ought to lay aſide all other Conſiderations, but the performing his Duty: And if he retains the leaſt Degree of Partiality, it is impoſſible for him to diſcharge his Truſt, or make the People eaſy who live under him.

THE beſt Laws, if they are to be explain'd by corrupt and wicked Men, are no longer the Protection of the Subject; but become Engines to work their Deſtruction.

THIS Conſideration is diſtant from Us; but if hereafter we ſhould ſee, even in this Great and Flouriſhing City, thoſe who are at the Head of it Impriſoning and Perſecuting ſome unhappy Perſons for that kind of Behaviour which they have approv'd in others, it muſt be confeſs'd, that we are to expect all the Miſchiefs which can flow from this unwarrantable Method of Proceeding.

ON the Declaration which was made by my Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen relating to *H—p—n* and *F——ſt*, their pretended Sh——ffs, the Mob, encourag'd, by this laſt Perſon, did, in a very Riotous Manner, aſſemble and inſult the Friends of Sir *Joſh. Williams* and Mr. *Lockwood* with Impunity. There were Fireworks and other Demonſtrations of Joy to animate the Spirits of their Hireling Rabble: No

Proclamation was read to diſperſe them; but all Means were us'd to encourage and abett them.

WHEN Sir *John Williams* came at length to receive his Right, and be ſworn Alderman of *Cripplegate-Ward*, thoſe who aſſembled to expreſs their Joy on that Occaſion, and who innocently were drinking his Health round a Bonfire, found themſelves attacked in the moſt violent Manner, without their having given the leaſt Provocation: And ſuch was the Barbarity of the Faction, that ſome Men fir'd down in the midſt of them, out of the *Crown-Tavern*; and yet the Conſtables were there, tamely permitting theſe barbarous Attempts.

WHEN the Mob, thus irritated, began to defend themſelves, the Proclamation was immediately read; and before they could poſſibly ſeparate, ſeveral of them were apprehended, ſent to Priſon, and even threatned with the Loſs of their Lives.

IT is certain, that Tumults of all Kinds ought to be ſuppreſs'd; but if they are tolerated in a Party of Men, who want not Malice nor Inclination, can any Perſon, who by an upright Behaviour, has drawn upon himſelf their Hatred and Spleen, have any other Security for his Life but their Diſcretion?

IT is to be hoped, more Care will be taken for the future, that there may not be any Complaints on this Head; but that all Perſons who break the Peace, will be treated as they deſerve; and that Puniſhment will fall upon thoſe who firſt began the Inſults of which

Sir

Sir *John Williams*'s Friends may, with ſuch Reaſon, complain.

## *To All* TRUE BRITONS.

Fellow-Countrymen,

*YOU have lately ſeen ſome Attempts in Print to juſtify the Proceedings againſt the late Biſhop of* Rocheſter, *and ſome Speeches have been printed to that Effect; but I think it my Duty to inform you, That Preparations are making to lay a State of that Caſe before you in the moſt clear Light.*

*IT has been thought proper to delay Printing any Thing in Behalf of thoſe who eſteemed that Reverend Prelate innocent, for fear it ſhould be judg'd Libelling Men in Authority; But ſince Mr.* Reeves *and Mr.* Wearg *have thought proper to produce their Replies, and a Reverend Prelate to compliment the Publick with his Speech, other Perſons who had a Share in that Debate, may now venture to trouble you with the Reaſons that induc'd them to form their Opinion.*

*IT would have been very obliging in the Two Gentlemen above named, if they would have given their Speeches at the* Opening of this Caſe, *and not have begun with their* Replies.

*I CAN eaſily account for this Omiſſion, when I conſider, the great* Conceſſions *which were made by them, relating to the Sort of Evidence upon which they were to proceed. But I hope they will yet give thoſe Learned*

*Diſ-*

*Diſcourſes to the Preſs, or they will publiſh'd by ſome other Hand, from the moſt accurate Notes that could be taken.*

I am,

Your Brother and Friend,

*The* TRUE BRITON.

THE Letter ſign'd *Marforio*, dated *July* 23, is received; and my Correſpondent is deſired to ſend the reſt of his Thoughts on the ſame Plan, that they may be Communicated to the Publick in one Paper.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XVIII.

*——— Si quis*
*Opprobriis dignum laceraverit, integer ipſe;*
*Solventur riſu tabulæ: tu miſſus abibis.* HOR.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2. 1723.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

THERE is not any Thing which ſo plainly demonſtrates the Corruption and Baſeneſs of an Age, as Reſentment againſt the brave and honeſt Pen which endeavours to reform it. The *Comic Muſe* has always been held uſeful to this noble End, and its Labours, when meritorious, juſtly extoll'd. The licentious Pen of *Ariſtophanes* has been condemn'd for Perſonal Reflections on, and for particularly aiming

aiming at the Deſtruction of, the moſt virtuous and wiſe Man of whom the Heathen World could ever boaſt. But the Vices and the Follies of the Greateſt have been commendably expos'd, and our own excellent Authors have, with Applauſe, introduc'd Coxcombs of Quality on the Stage.

THERE were no Outeries, no Railing, no Armies of Mercenary Pens, liſted againſt *Ben Jonſon*, *Etheridge*, *Wicherley*, &c. Or the Humour of the Age is ſtrangely alter'd, or their Fools were only well-born, and not in Office: Or is it the Prerogative of Knavery to be exempted from Correction? Thus noble Deſcent, and large Poſſeſſions, ſhall be no Protection againſt the Aſſaults of Wit; but a precarious momentary Employment is a ſure *Aſyle*.

MEN are apt to triumph when the Unfortunate Man is cruſh'd, and ſneer when their Equals, nay, their Friends, are expoſed: But let a Knave in Power (and ſure there have been ſuch!) be but hinted at, nay, if you gently murmur at the Villainy by which you and your Country are ruin'd, the whole Herd of Sycophants are then in Arms to defend the Ordure from whence they receive their vile Nutriment.

IT was, indeed, accounted a prudent Reply of *Aſinius Pollio*, when *Auguſtus Cæſar* had writ ſome Verſes againſt him, and preſs'd him to anſwer them, *That he wou'd never write Verſes againſt a Man, in whoſe Power it was to proſcribe him.*

TO an Author of leſs Reſolution, and in any other Country, this, Sir, wou'd be a neceſſary Caution.

tion. But you have no *Auguſtus* to deal with. To honeſt Minds your Paper is uſeful, diverting, and inoffenſive; and therefore, I was not a little ſurpriz'd at the Information I received lately in the Country, that the Printer of the *True Briton* has ſo often been taken into Cuſtody, and a Paper ſo univerſally eſteem'd, becauſe univerſally read, ſhou'd give Offence to any, but a certain Magiſtrate and his *Ephori*, inſpir'd by a *vindictive Servant*. In vain have our *Whig Anceſtors* ſo frequently, ſo ſtrenuouſly, aſſerted the Uſefulneſs of *Liberty to the Preſs*, ſhou'd the Printers, on *Inuendos*, *Miſconſtructions*, and *Perſonal Prejudice*, be ſubject to daily Arreſts. For tho' they ſhould be diſcharg'd, (the *beſt* they can hope for) yet ſuch Proceedings againſt them, will as certainly reduce them at length to Want and a Gaol, as they would be by the moſt expreſs and ſevere Law: In vain may Men flatter themſelves with *Freedom*, when they ſhall be puniſhed for Declamations againſt *Oppreſſion*, *Pride* and *Avarice*: And in vain may Men *praiſe* an *Adminiſtration*, when even their *Praiſes* ſhall be paraphras'd into *Reflections*.

THE Perſon of the King of *England* has ever been held Sacred, and all *True Britons* will ever ſo eſteem him; but ſure it is *New* Doctrine, That his *Servants* are to be plac'd in *that Rank*. Yet *Sacred* even as *Princes* are in their Perſons, they will not be offended, if we petty Mortals do not look on them as *infallible* in their Determinations. It is rendering them the trueſt and kindeſt Service to diſcloſe the Vices of thoſe, in whom they have haſtily plac'd too much Power; and, inſtead of offending, it may be agreeable to a Prince, to diſcloſe to him and the World,

World, (if ever, in future Times, there ſhould be Occaſion) how ſincerely a Miniſter may be abhorr'd by all, who perhaps has obtruded himſelf into his Councils by a falſe Repreſentation of his Popularity.

FOR my Part (and I ſpeak the Senſe of my Neighbours) I revere your Paper, as it decries Vice in general; nor will I be miſled by Mercenary Scribblers to apply it to the preſent Times. Poor Creatures! how wretchedly do you make your Court! when you labour to inlighten what might otherwiſe remain obſcure! When not a *former* Knave can be laſh'd, nor Fool expos'd, but you do moſt invidiouſly attribute the Character to ſome of the preſent Race! But *their* Characters are too glaring for you to extinguiſh; too well known for you to conceal.

SHOULD theſe Creatures be allow'd to ſcribble on, and ſo prevail, not only the *Preſs*, but the *Pulpit* muſt be ſilenc'd, and Hiſtory muſt be prohibited. No Vice or Villainy muſt be inveigh'd againſt, no Story told, leſt they invent a Meaning, and point out a Man in Office, whom they fancy the Character will ſuit. To exclaim againſt the Growth of *Prophaneneſs* and *Immorality* will be interpreted by them an Accuſation of the preſent Government, and no doubt their *blind Zeal* and *Venom* will think this following *Quotation* Treaſon, and apply it to *Ferdinando*, *Simoni*, or *Cacoſogo*, when they have decypher'd who they are.

'THE general Intereſt of the Nation is nothing 'to him, but only that Portion of it, that he either 'does

'does or would poſſeſs. 'Tis not the Rain that wa-
'ters the *whole Earth*, but that which falls into his
'*own Ciſtern*, that muſt relieve him: not the *Com-*
'*mon*, but the *Enclоſure*, that muſt make him
'Rich.

'LET the Publick ſink or ſwim, ſo long as he
'can hold his Head above Water: Let the Ship be
'caſt away, if he may but have the Benefit of the
'Wreck: Let the Government be ruined by his
'Avarice, if by the ſame Avarice, he can ſcrape to-
'gether ſo much as to make his Peace, and main-
'tain him as well under another. Let Foreigners in-
'vade and ſpoil the Land, ſo long as he has a good
'Eſtate in *Bank* elſewhere. Peradventure, for all
'this, Men may curſe him as a covetous Wretch, a
'Traitor and a Villain: But ſuch Words are
'to be look'd upon only as the ſplendid Declaimings
'of *Novices* and *Men of Heat*, who, while they rail at
'his Perſon, perhaps envy his Fortune: Or, poſſibly,
'of Loſers and Malecontents, whoſe Portion and
'Inheritance, is a Freedom to ſpeak. But a Poli-
'tician muſt be above *Words*; *Wealth*, he knows,
'anſwers all; and if it brings a *Storm* upon him,
'will provide him alſo a *Coat* to weather it out.

'THAT ſuch Thoughts and Principles as theſe
'lie at the Bottom of moſt Men's Actions; At the
'*Bottom* do I ſay? Nay, ſit at the *Top*, and viſibly
'hold the Helm in the Management of the weightieſt
'Affairs of moſt Nations, we need not much Hiſto-
'ry, nor Curioſity of Obſervation, to convince us.
'For though there have not been wanting ſuch here-
'tofore as have practiſed theſe unworthy Arts, (for-
'aſmuch

'aſmuch as there have been Villains in all Places 'and all Ages) yet now-a-days they are owned 'above-board; And whereas, Men formerly had 'them in Deſign; amongſt us, they are openly 'vouched, argued, and aſſerted in common Diſ-'courſe."

THESE *Hackney Scriblers* will not readily find out whence this is taken: It is not impoſſible but the little *Ebony Doctor* may inform them: I will only aſſure them, That it was deliver'd by one of the greateſt Orators of his Time, and receiv'd with great Applauſe, in a Reign, which, his turbulent Friends ſay, aim'd at *Abſolute Power*.

I ſincerely wiſh your Labours their deſerved and deſired Succeſs, and am, SIR,

*Yours, &c.*

CAVALIER.

I AM very much obliged to the Perſon who wrote the foregoing Letter, and aſſure him, I will endeavour to merit that Character which he ſeems to give me, and which I am too ſenſible my own Capacity does not deſerve, but my Inclinations induce me to covet.

SINCE the bare mentioning Things paſt, is a Crime not to be forgiven by Perſons who have the Power of Revenge in their Hands, I hope I may, without offending, conſider Futurity.

I WAS

I WAS the other Day Reading Lord *Bacon's* Eſſays, where I find a Propheſy, which, for the Amuſement of my Readers, I will tranſcribe.

*THERE was*, ſays he, *a Propheſy before the Year* 88, [which I would obſerve was the Time of the *Spaniſh Armado*] *which I do not underſtand.*

*There ſhall be ſeen upon a Day,*
*Between the* Baugh *and the* May,
*The Black Fleet of* Norway:
*When that is come and gone,*
England, *build Houſes with Lime and Stone;*
*For after, Wars ſhall you have none.*

*Sir* Francis Bacon's *Eſſays. P.* 100.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XIX.

*Si mea cum veſtris valuiſſent vota, Pelasgi,*
*Non foret ambiguus tanti certaminis Hæres:*
*Tuque tuis armis, nos te poteremur Achille.* OVID.

MONDAY, AUGUST 5. 1723.

SINCE I find the Two Learned Gentlemen ſtill decline to publiſh their Speeches at the Opening of the Charge againſt the Biſhop of *Rocheſter*, they will permit me to give the Subſtance of them to the Publick; by which the World may judge whether the Evidence, even as ſtated by them, was ſufficient, or not, to be the Foundation of ſuch a Bill.

Mr. *REEVES*, acquainted the Houſe of Lords, That he appeared as Counſel for the Bill to In-

Inflict Pains and Penalties on *Francis* Lord Biſhop of *Rocheſter*.

HE obſerves, That the Biſhop made no Defence in the Houſe of Commons, but that the Counſel for the Bill did prove the Allegations of it to be true, to the Satisfaction of that Houſe: But that it can't be expected a Perſon of the Biſhop's Character and Capacity, ſhould lay himſelf open, or act imprudently; And therefore, the World might expect to find the Treaſonable Correſpondence he was ingag'd in, carried on in Cyphers, Fictitious Names, and Cant Words, making uſe of another Man's Hand-Writing.

THAT the Nature of the Evidence againſt the Biſhop is Circumſtantial: That there are many Circumſtances which could be applyed to no Body but the Biſhop. He mentions Three Letters which they would prove to be the Hand-Writing of Mr. *Kelly*, and which, he ſays, they preſume were writ by the Order of the Biſhop: That they were the Letters of *Jones* and *Illington* marked in the *Appendix D* 10, *D* 11, and the Letter *D* 12, ſigned 1378, which was Decyphered to denote the Letter *R*.

THAT if they can prove that *Jones* and *Illington* mean the Biſhop of *Rocheſter*, Then that Letter ſigned 1378 was duly decyphered: That the Biſhop had the Gout at the Time mentioned in one of thoſe Letters; and, That his Wife died Six Days after the 20th of *April*, which explains the melancholy Circumſtances of the Family that are

hinted at in thoſe Letters. That *Jones* and *Illington* were Names uſed to denote the ſame Perſon; for, in a Letter wrote from hence, it is mentioned, That Mrs. *Jones* was dead; and a Letter from Abroad condoles for the Death of Mrs. *Illington:* That a Dog was ſent to Mrs. *Jones*; and, That *Kelly* writes an Anſwer, That Mrs. *Illington* was concerned for the Misfortune of the Dog: And they'll prove this Dog was ſent to the Biſhop and his Wife; That it will be proper for them to ſhew when the Biſhop was in Town or Country, which agrees with the Mention made in ſome Letters of *Jones* or *Illington* being in or out of Town: That the Dog's Name was *Harlequin*, which is mentioned in one of the Letters to be the Name of the Dog ſent over to the Biſhop. And for which in that Letter [*D* 20] Mrs. *Illington* is ſaid to be in great Tribulation: That this Dog had his Leg broke at the Time mentioned in that Letter.

THAT there were ſeveral Matters neceſſary to be proved relating to *Kelly* (*viz.*) That he was well acquainted with the Biſhop; That he was frequently with him; That he uſed to ſend for him, and expreſſed Concern when he failed him; That they will ſhew *Kelly* took upon him the Name of *Hatfield*, becauſe ſeveral Letters went by that Hand.

THAT there were ſeveral Papers taken at the Deanary of *Weſtminſter*, which will ſatisfy the Houſe, that he was carrying on a private Correſpondence: That the Letter [*D*. 5.] wrote by a Great Lady, does plainly prove, the Biſhop was a proper Perſon to intruſt with Papers of ſuch a Nature; That the Letter [*D*. 7.] from *Roan*, where he gives him a Direction

Direction to *Monſieur Wiſhart chez Meſſieurs Arbuthnot & Compaignie à Roüen en Normandie*, was a ſtrong Circumſtance againſt him.

THAT the Letter [*D.* 9.] which comes from Captain *Halſtead*, he apprehends to be a Material Piece of Evidence; for that Captain *Halſtead* viſited the Biſhop a little before he went to fetch the late Duke of *Ormonde* from *Spain*, and was with him above an Hour.

THAT the Letter [*D.* 6.] to *Monſieur Dubois*, was of great Importance: That there are Circumſtances to prove this Letter was prepared to be ſent Abroad, but by ſome Accident or other, did not go: That it was ſeal'd with the Biſhop's Seal, which they will prove, by Engravers, to be the ſame Seal of the Letter taken upon the Biſhop's Servant coming from the *Tower*: That in this Letter it is mentioned, That Two Months before that, he returned an Anſwer in the Hand of Mr. *Johnſon* to ſome Letter he at that Time received.

THAT the Letter taken upon his Servant coming from the *Tower*, is a plain Intimation of his Guilt; for he does not take any Notice of his Innocence; but ſays, *Layer*, *Sample*, and *Neynoe* could not affect him; and his not mentioning *Kelly*, implies a tacit Conſent that *Kelly*, who was then in Cuſtody, could affect him: That in that Letter the Biſhop ſays, He hopes they won't impeach him; but if the Impeachment goes on, they will then impriſon him for ſome Years without any Remedy: Which Fear ſhews, that he was not intirely innocent.

THAT this Charge was to be ſupported only by Circumſtances.

THAT they had no Witneſs to produce when he dictated the Letter, nor any Letters under his Hand; But that if theſe Circumſtances could be applied to no other Perſons but the Biſhop, they would ſufficiently ſupport the Allegations of the Bill.

Mr. *WEARG* acquainted the Houſe, That the other Two Perſons who had ſuffered, were ſo inconſiderable and mean, that they would make a Merit of their Conſpiring againſt the whole Government, and would be proud of what they had done: But that a Man of the Biſhop's Function and Capacity, was to conceal every thing he had done from his beſt Friends, not only to avoid the Puniſhment, but the Scandal and Ignominy that would be caſt upon him for ſuch a Procedure.

THAT they will firſt proceed to ſhew the General Conſpiracy; and in order to open the Evidence, he mentions the Three Letters of *Jones*, *Illington*, and 1378, which, he ſays, are writ in the ſame Hand, the ſame Style, and bear the ſame Date.

THAT it is manifeſt, by other Circumſtances, that they were wrote by the ſame Perſon; for the melancholy Situation of his Family is mentioned in all of them.

THAT the Perſon who wrote them, was a Man who had great Opinion of his own Parts, and deſpiſed other People's.

THAT

THAT it appears Mr. *Jones* was in Town the 7th of *May*, and went out of Town the 10th, with an Intention to return the 15th.

THAT Mrs. *Jones* dyed the Week before the 30th of *April*.

THAT the Dog called *Harlequin*, which was ſent to Mr. *Jones*, was deſign'd for the Biſhop of *Rocheſter*.

THAT the Biſhop was in and out of Town at the Times above-mentioned.

THAT he had the Gout at the Time mention'd that *Jones* and *Illington* were in an ill Situation of Health.

THAT it is certain ſome of theſe Circumſtances might happen to Two Perſons at the ſame Time; but that it was morally impoſſible they all ſhould.

THAT *Halſtead*'s Letter was a material Piece of Evidence.

THAT they will ſhew *Kelly*'s Intimacy with the Biſhop; but that it was not to be expected his Lordſhip's common Servants ſhould know him.

THAT the Letter to *Dubois* was ſealed with the ſame Seal of the Letter taken coming from the *Tower*.

THAT if the Lords would look into the Hand-writing of that Letter, they would find, that it was wrote by the Biſhop in a diſguiſed, formal, ſet, ſtiff Hand.

THAT his Lordſhip uſes three Sorts of *E*'s; and that in the Word *Letters*, he uſes his common *E*, and another in the Date of the Letter *December*.

THAT they will prove the Letter from the *Tower* was his Hand-writing.

THAT this Charge was to be proved by Circumſtances; and that, at this Time of Day, Circumſtantial Evidence muſt be allowed.

THAT *Aſhton* was convicted of High-Treaſon upon Circumſtances only; which, he owned, was before the Treaſon-Act.

THAT *Harriſon* was convicted upon Circumſtances for the Murder of Dr. *Clinch*; and one of the principal Circumſtances which led to the Diſcovery of that Murder, was, The pulling a Handkerchief out of his Pocket.

THAT he hoped this Kind of Evidence would be ſufficient to ſupport this Bill.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

## NUMB. XX.

*——Nec Romula quondam*
*Ullo ſe tantum tellus jactabit alumno.* VIRG.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9. 1723.

IN my laſt I gave the Two Speeches of Mr. *Reeves* and Mr. *Wearg*, made at the Opening of the Charge againſt the Biſhop of *Rocheſter*, that the Publick might ſee ſeveral Paſſages in them which they will find mentioned in ſome other Papers not yet printed, relating to that important Affair.

I SHALL not enter at preſent on the Conſideration of thoſe Diſcourſes, but ſhall entertain my Reader with my Thoughts on that Glorious Virtue which is commonly called PUBLICK SPIRIT.

THIS

THIS great Quality ſo eſſential and neceſſary to a Noble Mind, proceeds from a Juſt Way of Thinking that we were not born for Ourſelves, nor our private Advantage, but for the Good of Others, and the Service of Civil Society.

A MAN who is thoroughly poſſeſs'd of *Publick Spirit*, and is directed by it in all his Actions, need not fear to be honoured by all honeſt Men whilſt he is in this World, and when he is taken out of it, to be ranked in the illuſtrious Liſt of thoſe who have faithfully and zealouſly ſerved their Country.

IF we look back into Ages paſt, we ſhall find the great Honour which is paid to all thoſe Patriots, who, actuated by this Principle, have lived Defending of, and dy'd Martyrs to LIBERTY. If Envy were ever lawful, it would be raiſed in the moſt Generous Breaſt, when we conſider what an Eternity of Fame Heroes have gain'd by loſing ſome few Years of Bondage.

PROVIDENCE permits us to paſs ſome tranſitory Moments in this World, and from our Behaviour here, our future Happineſs or Miſery is determined. This Conſideration ought to excite us to perform all the Duties required of us by the Divine Laws; and there is no one amongſt them more poſitive than our doing our *Duty to our Neighbour*. This Command comprehends ſerving our Country, and contributing every Thing which we can, as Members of the Conſtitution under which we are born, to preſerve it in its Purity.

WE

WE in this Kingdom are Subjects to Monarchy, and we ſhould exert our utmoſt Power to keep a juſt Ballance between the King and People, as the only Means to enjoy Government without Tyranny, and Liberty without Licentiouſneſs.

THE firſt Inſtitution of Kingly Government, ſpeaks the true Intention of thoſe who firſt ſubmitted to it.

WHEN in the *Eaſt*, as in the Times of *Abraham*, the Families grew ſo large, and the Deſcendants from them ſwell'd into Multitudes, he who was the Head of each Family, took upon himſelf the Directing of it, and thence, as they inhabited Countries, he was ſtiled their *King*. The firſt Monarchs, therefore, were properly Parents of their Subjects, and choſen to protect and defend them. All thoſe who aſcend the Throne, ſhould have this imprinted on their Hearts, and remember, that the ſame Obligations lie upon Kings to preſerve their People, and defend their Rights, as are by Nature impos'd on Fathers to treat their Children with Clemency and Humanity. When they follow theſe Rules, they muſt feel the greateſt Pleaſure, by knowing, that from their Juſtice and Moderation flows the Happineſs of Thouſands: But, on the contrary, when they deviate from them, Greatneſs and Power muſt ſit heavily on thoſe who are ſenſible they only enjoy, and not deſerve them.

THE *Roman* Government was famous for producing Men of ſtrict Adherence to Virtue and Honour, and their Hiſtory furniſhes us with many Inſtances of Perſons

Perſons endow'd with that *Publick Spirit* which is at preſent my Theme.

IN that Period of Time, before Avarice, Corruption and Vanity had tainted their Minds, we ſee Riches deſpiſed, when to be purchaſed by Treachery: We find the *Decii* Devoting themſelves for the Publick Good; and even the Women of thoſe Times incouraging their Children to dye for their Country.

IF ſome of our Cotemporaries had lived then (and better would it be for us if they had) how would they have been eſteem'd, who would make *Poverty* a *Crime*, and *Publick Spirit* a *Phrenzy*.

THE Method common amongſt the Hackney Scriblers of our Days, when they are commanded to traduce the Character of an Honeſt Man, is, To brand him with having, in the general Calamity, loſt ſome Part of his Fortune; But they do not conſider, that he who dares oppoſe a Court, ſhews he is contented with what Fortune has given him, and prefers a moderate Eſtate, and an upright Heart, to an immenſe Income, and a troubled Conſcience. The celebrated Anſwer of the Old *Roman* deſerves to be recorded, who when the *Samnite* Ambaſſadors offer'd him an immenſe Sum to betray his Country, rather choſe to live on Roots, in the moſt humble Manner, than to eat Luxuriouſly by Sacrificing the Publick Cauſe.

IN thoſe Times it would have been a Crime of the higheſt Nature, if a *Conſul* or a *Quæſtor* ſhould have heap'd together vaſt Loads of Treaſure during his

his Adminiſtration, and the Senate and People would have ſent him to the *Tarpeian* Rock.

THE Great *Brutus* who ſtabb'd *Cæſar*, is a Noble Mark of Publick Spirit. *Cæſar* was his Friend, and had ſerved him in many Inſtances; yet when he trampled on the Laws, the general Good was preferr'd to his private Inclinations; and when he imbrued his Hands in his Blood, it was at the *Tyrant*, not the *Friend*, he ſtruck.

IN our own Country, we have had many Great Men, who have been remarkable for their Intrepidity and Firmneſs, even in the Article of Death, when the Calamity was brought upon them for virtuous Actions.

IN the Reign of *Charles* I. when the Civil Wars were begun, the Men who took up Arms, did it with an upright Intention to maintain and defend their antient Government. But a Set of wicked, corrupt and baſeborn Wretches ſtept up into Power on their Shoulders.

THEN pour'd in upon us that Torrent of Calamities which ſprung from the Uſurpation of *Cromwell*. Our King was kept in Baniſhment; our Laws were made ſubſervient to the Uſurper's Pleaſure; our Church was deſtroy'd; Hypocriſy was ſtiled Religion, and the moſt abject Slavery that ever could be endur'd, was call'd Liberty.

AFTER ſome Time, the Publick Spirit of our Country ſhone forth by the Glorious Reſtoration, which was at length happily accompliſhed. The Lord

Lord *Wharton* and Others, who, on Honeſt Principles, had oppos'd *Charles* I. joyn'd with Zeal to bring home *Charles* II. when they ſaw that there was nothing but general Ruin to be expected from thoſe who were then in Power.

THE Revolution in Eighty Eight, was another Mark of our *Engliſh* Glory; for when King *James* was perverted by Prieſts and other wicked Inſtruments of the Church of *Rome*, to endeavour the Subverſion of all that is dear to us, we made a Glorious Stand in Oppoſition to his Meaſures, and eſtabliſh'd King *William* and Queen *Mary* on the Throne, to whom we owe the Bleſſings we at preſent injoy.

OF all the Princes who have ſway'd our *Britiſh* Scepter, none ever deſerved more Applauſe, than that Great King who delivered us at that Juncture, and who deſerv'd to wear the Crown which was conferr'd upon him, as a Reward for the great Services he had done to this diſtreſs'd Country.

ONE of the greateſt Qualities of which he was Maſter, was, His Deſire to act by Himſelf, and His Scorn of blindly following the Dictates of his Miniſters. There is one Inſtance which I have heard given of his great Impartiality, That when he was preſs'd by Men in Authority to remove that Honeſt and Great Commander Sir *George Rook*, from his Imployment, becauſe he had given a Vote in Parliament contrary to the Diſpoſition of the *Whig Miniſtry*, the King anſwered, That it was not the Station of an Admiral to obey his Orders in the Houſe of Commons.

THE

THE more this Virtue is endeavour'd to be ſuppreſs'd by wicked Men, when ſuch are in Power, the more it exerts itſelf under Oppreſſion, and ſhines with the greater Force.

WHOEVER, hereafter, ſhould happen to be the Mark at which the Fury of an intaged Faction ſhould aim, muſt not ſuffer his Publick Spirit to be ſubdued by the Threats and Menaces of his Enemies, but continue to aſſert his Country's Cauſe with Intrepidity, and by his Firmneſs let the World ſee, that Honeſty is not to be ſtemm'd in its Courſe, when it flows in an upright Mind.

THE Examples of Men who have been ſacrific'd in former Times, ought not to terrify us; neither ſhould the Fate of *Ruſſel*, *Sidney*, and others, who were perſecuted for bearing too great a Proportion of *Publick Spirit*, deter Men from purſuing that End and ſerving that Cauſe, for which they fell, the Liberties of *Old England*.

FOR my Part, I find I grow ſtill more odious to the vile Scriblers of our Age, and, conſequently, flatter myſelf, that the Majority of the Kingdom begins to think I may have ſome Title to the Character of a TRUE BRITON. I ſhall ſay this to my Fellow-Countrymen, That I ſhall think no Labour loſt, nor any Danger too great, when I can contribute the leaſt Particle to their Service, and the Publick Good.

I THINK it proper to declare, That I never had, in any Part of my Life, but one View, which was,

was, The Defence of the Laws of theſe Kingdoms. I purſued this End with the greateſt Steadineſs, and have ever been of Opinion, That the King's Intereſt, and that of his People, were inſeparable. I therefore have endeavour'd, to the beſt of my Capacity, to ſerve His Majeſty with all imaginable Zeal, being thoroughly perſuaded, that both his Inclinations and Temper lead him to make us a Happy, Glorious, and Free Nation.

THIS I have done in the Low Station of Life where Fortune hath plac'd me; and if I had been a Member of either Houſe of Parliament, I ſhould have acted according to the Rules laid down in this and former Papers, without Regard to Party or Private Intereſt.

THERE are many Examples in my *Spaniſh* Manuſcript, where Men at the Helm have alter'd their Behaviour in eſſential Points; but, indeed, for *weighty* Reaſons. The Great *Ferdinando*, when he was diſoblig'd by the Court for not gratifying his Avarice or Ambition, abandon'd the Intereſt of the King his Maſter, and join'd with thoſe who were reputed Enemies to the Faction which then preſided. But it being found neceſſary to engage him a Second Time in Pay, he made a Second Turn with great Alacrity; and ſoon after began to accuſe others of Unſteadineſs, whilſt this Example of his Conſtancy to his own private Views, was recent in every Man's Memory. Nay, it is farther aſſured, There were few in the *Spaniſh* Cabinet at that Time, who had not changed Opinions many Times, and yet reproached others with

with it, who, ſome Perſons knew, never followed but one Point, nor ſerv'd but one Cauſe. Thus might theſe Men be properly ſaid to point at the *Mote* in the Eye of their Neighbour, but take no Notice of the *Beam* which is in their own.

I CAN only ſay, That had I liv'd in thoſe Days, I would have preferr'd a Man with many Private Faults, to one who had been Guilty of the leaſt Publick Crime.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXI.

*Vidi Hecubam, Centumque Nurus.* VIRG.

MONDAY, AUGUST 12. 1723.

THE great Care which the Parliament hath taken for the Publick Welfare, is evident through the whole Courſe of their Proceedings; but their is no greater Inſtance of their Zeal, than the Act which paſs'd the laſt Seſſions to oblige the Female Part of this Kingdom to take the Oaths.

OUR wiſe Adminiſtration juſtly call'd to mind the fatal Inſtance of a certain Iſland where the Women murder'd the Men; and therefore, thought it prudent and neceſſary, for the Security of our happy Eſtabliſhment, to oblige them to take thoſe Oaths which are the Bulwarks of the Proteſtant Succeſſion.

THERE is another Reaſon which might be of ſome Weight on this Occaſion; which is, That many Great Men are influenc'd by the Ladies in all Matters whatſoever; and therefore, it is certainly moſt proper to try their Loyalty in the ſtricteſt Manner we can.

I COULD have wiſh'd the little *Ebony Doctor* would have thought proper to imploy his Pen at this Juncture, to ſhew the *Nature of Oaths*; for the Ladies, I fear, will generally take them without underſtanding any of them, except the *Abjuration*, which is conceived in plain and eaſy Terms. I dare ſay the Biſhops will ſupply his Defect, and will not decline giving any ſcrupulous Conſcience all poſſible Satisfaction.

IT is ſaid, That ſince the ſuppoſed Riot at *Cripplegate* a certain *Eminent* and *Honeſt* Lawyer has repreſented to his Friends, that it would be proper the Riot-Act ſhould be extended to the Women; and that it ſhould be Felony for Twelve Females to meet together, and not diſperſe on the Reading of the Proclamation; but it is hoped, that a certain Lady not far from St. *James*'s, will have Intereſt enough to prevent this Attempt, which would intirely deſtroy her *Aſſemblée*.

WHATEVER ſecret Methods the Ladies have of concealing their Sex, and creeping into Power, are unknown; yet it is certain, That there has ſome been an Age formerly, but Old Women have ſat in the Cabinet, as M——rs; in *Weſtminſter-Hall*, as J——es; and in the H——ſe of L——ds as B——ps.

The Little *Ebony Doctor* at preſent bears that Character among the rational Part of Mankind.

IT is to be hop'd ſuch a Number of Perſons will conform on this Occaſion, as will convince all *Europe*, That any Attempts to diſturb us are vain; and the Ladies Zeal at this Juncture, will, in ſome Meaſure, atone for the Death of Cardinal *Du Bois*.

FOR fear they ſhould grow familiar with *Swearing*, and not diſtinguiſh between a Legal and Illegal Oath, it is ſaid, the *Third Commandment* will be ſpeedily printed, and given *Gratis* to all thoſe Women that ſhall not refuſe to comply with the Pleaſure of the Parliament.

I AM very much oblig'd to my worthy Friend *A. Z.* for his Letter, and hope I ſhall hear more frequently from him.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*Egregiam vero laudem, & ſpolia ampla refertis*
*Tuque puerque tuus.* ——

*SIR*,

I AM aſſured that I recommend my ſelf to you, when I confeſs that I am a *Zealous Whig*; and that to keep up my Character of being *Staunch*, I have always thought myſelf under an Obligation to defend the Actions of my Maſters: And though this Principle may have ſometimes involved me in ſeeming Contradictions, yet I never flinched. Accordingly, in the late Queen's Time, I roar'd out for the noble Liberty

of *Reſiſtance*; and ſince her Deceaſe, for the noble Liberty of *blind Obedience*; In 1719. I congratulated the Nation upon its Proſpect of being freed from its Debts by the Wiſe *South-Sea Scheme*; And in 1720, I railed at the Directors, and ſwore they were all *Jacobites*: At the Beginning of King GEORGE's Reign, I curſed the late Lord *Bol*——*e*, and the Lord *Har*——*t* for being *Peace-Makers*; and am now perfectly fond of them for being *Plot-Demoliſhers*. But above all, I have been remarkably loud in the Defence of the Proceedings in Parliament, becauſe I look upon That as the Quinteſſence of my Party; and becauſe no one durſt contradict me; for you muſt know, I have always been thought an *Informer*. Thus have I behaved my-ſelf Seven Years, and did deſign the ſame for Seven-times Seven; But, alas! I find my Reſolution begins to ſtagger at a Bill paſſed in the laſt Seſſions; by which all the Fair Ladies in *Great Britain*, that have any Fortunes, and no Husbands, are obliged before the 25th of *December* next, to take Three ſtout Oaths of *Allegiance*, *Supremacy*, and *Abjuration*; which Three Words are enough to frighten half the Female World.

I HAVE puzzled myſelf in vain, to find out what the Ladies have done to draw down the Fury of the Parliament upon them. I once thought the Lord *Nithſdale*'s eſcaping in Womens Cloaths, might cauſe this *Whig-Averſion* to *Petticoats*; but that is too long ago. Then I recollected, that ſeveral of that Sex waited on Biſhop *Atterbury*, to take Leave of Him before He embarked; but this is too late, for the *Swearing Bill* paſſed before he went: Beſides, it is very well known, They were more concerned for his

*Perſon* than *Principles*, unjuſtly fearing the King would not find out as *Handſome* a Man to ſucceed Him.

I AM at a Loſs to underſtand the *Policy* of this Act; which will certainly exaſperate the Sufferers by it againſt the Government; and, without doubt, a *Gracious King* and a *Fine Gentleman* would be, at leaſt, as deſirous of the Affections of his *Female* Subjects as of his *Male*: Beſides, the Number of *Non-Jurors* is ſo very ſmall, that it was impoſſible to make them conſiderable without helping them to ſo great a Reinforcement of *Nonjureſſes* as they will now have.

IT is very amazing, that among ſo many amorous, ſo many pretty well dreſſed Noblemen and Gentlemen, the Ladies ſhould not have a Party ſtrong enough to ſupport their Intereſt; nay, not ſo much as a *Proteſt* enter'd in Favour of them againſt a Bill, which muſt neceſſarily cauſe more Talk, and more *Ill-will* than the Famous *Quarentine Act*.

UPON farther Thoughts, I am apt to imagine, that the Reaſon of theſe Proceedings may be accounted for from the great Hurry of Employ our Repreſentatives have been in about Dr. *Atterbury* and *Kelly*, &c. Zeal for the *Hanover* Succeſſion has made them unattentive to the *Secret* Whiſperings of *Nature*, which every Man of good Senſe and good Nature is known to carry about him in Favour of this Beautiful Part of the Creation. But let the Ladies know for their Comfort, that the General Council of *Great Britain* does not think itſelf Infallible in its Determinations; but has been known to have repeal'd an Act,

almoſt

almoſt as ſoon as it was made, and before it was put in Execution.

IN Confidence of this, I have drawn up the Form of a Petition to the Houſe of Commons to redreſs this real Grievance: I deſire it may be left with the Printer of this Paper, for the Ladies to ſubſcribe: which, I am perſuaded, they will do; and that they will flock to the Parliament-Houſe with as great Unanimity as the *Roman* Matrons did to the Senate, when they apprehended a Law was enacting to allow each Senator Two Wives.

## To the Honourable Houſe of Commons,

### In PARLIAMENT Aſſembled,

## The Humble PETITION of all the Rich Unmarry'd Women of *Great-Britain*;

Sheweth,

*THAT Your Petitioners are in the utmoſt Conſternation to hear that an Act paſſed in the laſt Seſſion, to oblige Your Petitioners to ſo unuſual a Thing as* Swearing. *We are not ſenſible, that we have been guilty of any* Actions *or* Expreſſions *that can bring us under a Suſpicion of* Diſloyalty *to the Government. We have rais'd and lower'd our* Heads, *have inlarg'd or contracted our* Hoops, *have ſhew'd our* Beſt Cloaths *and* Airs *on* Birth-Nights *and in* Drawing-Rooms, *in ſtrict Conformity to the preſent Eſtabliſhment. We have prefer'd the Love of our* Country *to that of* Fine Cloaths; *and, in Obedience to*

*Parliament, have made up our* India Damasks *and* Chinces *into* Curtains, Quilts *and* Toylettes, *not daring to uſe 'em even for* Under-Petticoats. *We have, beſides, been ſo buſy of late in adjuſting the* Cut of the Sleeve, *and other Affairs of great Conſequence, that we have had very little Time to inquire into the* Pope's Authority, *or the* Diſtinctions *of* Indefeaſible Hereditary *and* Parliamentary Right.

*WE are alſo humbly of Opinion, That it is not agreeable to* Equity *to load us with* Double Taxes *for* Diſaffection, *ſince* Loyalty *does not qualify us for the* Profits *of* State-Offices. *If, therefore, this Act muſt continue in Force, we humbly expect to be impower'd by* another *to ſend an equal Number of* Parliament-Women *to the Houſe; That one of the* Secretaries *of* State *may be of our Sex; and, That we may have the* prodigious Pleaſure *of being admitted into the* Secrets *of the* Privy-Council. *Neither can we conceive what Prejudice it could be to the Government, if, in this* Time of Peace, *we ſhould come in for a Share of the Poſts in the* Army.

*WE alſo beg Leave to remind Your Honours, That many* Members *of this Houſe have often been Petitioners to* Us; *have flung themſelves at our Feet; and, with Oaths and Proteſtations, have owned, how ready they were to dye for us; and what Power we have over them. We ſhall therefore have Reaſon to doubt of the Sincerity of theſe Expreſſions, if we cannot ſucceed in this ſo reaſonable a Requeſt; or, if we have that extenſive Power, we may be provok'd to exert it.*

*IF this Act is calculated with Deſign to force us to put our Perſons and Fortunes into the Hands of*

*Men*

*Men that will* Swear, *we are resolved to pluck up our Spirit, and to sacrifice Part of our Riches to our Resentment; And we take this Opportunity of letting the House know our Resolutions, That, unless this Clause be immediately repealed, those* Members *who are unmarry'd, shall continue so; and those that have Wives, may, perhaps, hear of this, when they would chuse to be asleep.*

*AFTER ALL, We dare assure Ourselves, That we shall have our* Tender Consciences *indulged as far as the* Quakers *were, not long since; and, That, if we must give the Government any Security for our* Affections, *it may be by our usual Way of* Protesting *and* Vowing. *In a Word, Do any thing to free us from* Swearing;

And Your Petitioners will ever Pray, &c.

THESE Arguments, assisted by the Moving Eloquence of so many Beautiful Faces, will, I doubt not, prevail: But if not, I hope the P——y-C——cil will send out Injunctions to the Bishops and Ministers of every Diocess and Parish, to instruct our Weak Sisters in *Casuistry*; to teach them to confute *Bellarmine*; and to inform Them of the Extent of *Faithful* and *True Allegiance*; and whether or no They are obliged by it to wear Swords, and ride astride.

*I am*, SIR,

*Your Humble Servant*,

A. Z.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXII.

*Nec memoranda tamen vobis mea facta, Pelasgi,*
*Esse reor: vidistis enim. Sua narret Ulysses*
*Quæ sine teste gerit, quorum nox conscia sola est.*
OVID.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16. 1723.

PERSECUTION is one of the Principal Methods which Princes pursue, who find they must support themselves by Force, and want the Affections of their Subjects.

IT is the Misfortune of our Neighbouring Nations to feel, in many Instances, the Weight of this Curse; and formerly this Kingdom has groaned under it; but it is our Happiness at present to be free from all Apprehensions of this Nature, when we consider, that we have a King on the Throne who makes the Laws of the Land the Rules of his Government.

WHEN

WHEN Evil Ministers first begin to find Opportunities of executing their Schemes, and gratifying their Passions, Corruption is their first Refuge to support themselves in Power; and when they have indeavour'd sufficiently to taint the Minds of the People, with Bribes and Pensions, but find a Remnant of Bold and Honest Men who detest their Practices, These wicked Politicians determine to persecute such True Patriots, in order to Intimidate those they could not Byas.

RELIGION is one great Pretence generally taken to justify such Cruelties. The Dragooning in *France* was esteem'd a wholesome Severity against the poor Protestants; and during the Usurpation of *Cromwell*, the Members of the Church of *England* were barbarously treated by the *Fanaticks*, who committed all violent Acts against them with the sanctified Pretence, that it was done for Righteousness Sake.

I WOULD only make one Remark on the *Nonconformists* to our Worship, That tho' they with Justice exclaim against the Inquisition of the Church of *Rome*, yet whenever they have been the Governing Faction, they have carried their Fury to as great a Degree of Barbarity against their Enemies, as any Cabal ever did; and have ever had a just Toleration when the Church of *England*'s Power has prevail'd.

WE may be easy at present, because nothing can give our Enemies the least Colour of saying, that any Subjects who breathe *English* Air, are depriv'd of Liberty, or suffer any Hardship whatsoever.

THE

THE *Roman* Catholicks may avoid their Taxes, and injoy quiet Poſſeſſion of their Eſtates, whenever they ſhall pleaſe to change their Religion, and abandon the Principles in which they were Educated; and the Nonjurors may have the ſame Benefit, when they ſhall think proper to take the Oaths to the King, and abjure the Protender. Now, can any body be ſaid to be Perſecuted, who may avoid it by conforming to the Pleaſure of the Parliament?

I AM certain the Tax lately laid on the *Papiſts*, muſt be warranted by the Laws of God and Man, becauſe a Majority of the Biſhops voted for it, and our Glorious Parliament aſſented to it.

I T will indeed be a heavy Burthen for theſe Kingdoms, if ever the private Reſentment of a Miniſter, ſhall, by the Greatneſs of his Power, be eſteem'd Publick Juſtice, and if his Pleaſure ſhall direct the Principles of the Governing Party. What Calamities may we not expect, if ever we ſhould ſee ſuch a Man in Power, who would make Honeſty a ſufficient Crime, and improbable *Inuendo's* a Legal Evidence!

THERE have been ſeveral Scriblers who have endeavour'd, by the Art of Decyphering, and following the new Method of *Explaining*, to adapt ſome Characters and Expreſſions contained in ſome former Papers to the Great Men of our preſent Time; and therefore, in order to avoid Cenſure, I would willingly explain myſelf on this Head.

THESE

THESE Wretches would induce the World to believe, That by FERDINANDO is meant a Great Perſon who is now juſtly plac'd at the Head of Affairs; but I cannot conceive in what manner they would prove this; for *Ferdinando* is called a Corrupt Evil Miniſter, which every Body knows can never be apply'd to any Perſon who diſcharges his Truſt with the greateſt Integrity and Fidelity to his Maſter. Therefore, in that ſingle Inſtance, they muſt fail, and all their Malice falls to the Ground. I cannot conceive, that there is the leaſt Parallel between them; for I have not heard the Great Man they mean, accus'd of Corruption, unleſs it was once, when he was barbarouſly treated by a *Tory* Houſe of Commons.

*SIMONI*: they would decypher to mean another Pillar of our State; but is it poſſible any Man of common Senſe can think it is intended to mean a Man who has never varied in his Adherence to the King and His Family, and always abhorr'd Popery?

AS for CACOFOGO, they have not yet conſider'd him; but wait for a further Tranſcript relating to him; which, in due Time, they may have.

BUT what gives me equal Uneaſineſs, is, That I have drawn upon myſelf the Anger of the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, for having mention'd ſome Things relating to them. I therefore think fit to declare, That I have the greateſt Regard for Sir GERARD CONYERS, Kt. whoſe Wiſdom, Great Abilities, and Ready Wit, on all Occaſions, make him an amiable Man to his Friends, and compleat

pleat the Character of a Fine Gentleman: And Sir WILLIAM THOMPSON, the Recorder, has always ſhewn ſuch Zeal for his Country, that I muſt congratulate the City for having ſuch a Servant, and the Kingdom ſuch an Ornament.

BUT what is moſt grievous, is, That the BISHOPS are ſaid to be fir'd with Chriſtian Rage againſt me for ſome Expreſſions in this *Spaniſh Manuſcript* relating to the Prelates of that Kingdom, which my Enemies would falſely ſuppoſe are intended to reflect on them. But I will not believe they can give Attention to ſuch inſufficient Evidence; therefore I muſt hope, that their Anger will be blunted when they have duly conſider'd my Papers.

THE little EBONY DOCTOR is in Wrath at being ſometimes nam'd by me; and therefore I muſt beg of him to be aſſur'd, I never ſhould have thought of him, had he not appear'd pretty much in Publick of late, and frightned ſome few Ladies whoſe Families had a certain Proſpect of being increas'd.

THE Biſhop of TORTOSA is ſaid to be intended for the late Biſhop of *Rocheſter*: But this cannot be; for the *Spaniſh* Prelate was unjuſtly depriv'd; and the laſt was condemn'd by Parliament.

I HOPE, through the whole Courſe of this Paper, I have paid that Duty to the KING, as becomes a Faithful and Loyal Subject.

HIS MAJESTY's Perſonal Virtues are conſpicuous through all his Actions. His Steadineſs to his

his Friends, and his Mercy to his Enemies, are Qualities which muſt indear him to the moſt inveterate Foe this Kingdom has; and in this He only can be ſaid to deſerve even more than He enjoys.

IF any of the Villainous Crew who make their Court to their Friends by traducing of me, and miſrepreſenting my Actions, ſhould preſume to inſinuate, that I have dar'd, in Thought, Word or Deed, to aſperſe His Majeſty or his Family, I will ſay, to the Greateſt amongſt them, That in Loyalty I will have no Superior; but am ready to dye for my KING, whenever his Cauſe requires it.

I HOPE Perſons will not think, That becauſe I have been wanting in Subſervience to ſome of our Friends, I, for that Reaſon, muſt be called an Enemy to the State. I am certain, that there is a wide Difference between the Character of a Flatterer, and the Publick Spirit of a TRUE BRITON.

KING *CHARLES* II. was famous for his Indulgence to his Subjects on all Occaſions; and I have heard one memorable Inſtance of his Lenity to an Honeſt Cavalier, who, on his Majeſty's Entry into *Salisbury*, preſs'd to ſee that Prince, whoſe long Baniſhment had prov'd ſo fatal to the whole Kingdom. The King, who was then on his Progreſs, had ſome little *black Spaniels* in the Coach, and warn'd the poor Man not to cling too cloſe to the Door, leſt one of thoſe Animals ſhould bite him. But the Loyaliſt ſtill perſiſted, and at laſt one of the Spaniels ſeized him by the Finger; and the poor Fellow, whilſt he was in Pain, cried out, with a loud Voice, *God bleſs*

*your* MAJESTY; but G——*d* D——*n your* DOGS.

THIS proves, That Kings have gain'd the Love of their Subjects when they have condeſcended to let the People ſee them, and have permitted thoſe who live under them to judge of their Monarchs, who by their Duty ought to protect and defend their Liberties.

IT muſt be a great Bleſſing to us, when we have a Prince on the Throne (as His Majeſty King GEORGE has ever been) who prefers the Intereſt of His Subjects to all other Conſiderations whatſoever, and who no otherwiſe delights in his Foreign Dominions, but as their Intereſt is conſiſtent with the true and real Service of the Country which he ever muſt protect and defend.

FOR my Part, I muſt ſay, That I think all Attempts againſt him, and His Illuſtrious Family, are vain.

WHILST I was writing this Paper, I received a Letter from the Mayor of a Corporation, that was ever Dutiful to His MAJESTY.

SIR,

*I HAVE juſt heard, That a Perſon who thinks himſelf ill-treated by the* TRUE BRITON, *indeavours to ſhew his Spleen to You, and his Method of oppreſſing us, is to traduce and vilify every Thing that he imagines can conduce to ſerve the* Old Whig Intereſt, *that has ever prevailed here.*

*W B.*

*WE ſtand upon that Foot, and conſequently, whatever ſavours of* Tory *Principles, will never proſper here. But we ſhall ever eſteem thoſe Men who deſpiſe the* Names, *and value the* Maxims *of their Party.*

*WE know your Deſtruction is the Aim of a Villainous Set of Men, whoſe only Conſideration is Your Ruin, and whoſe ſingle View is your End.*

*WE ſhall ever ſerve your Friends in Oppoſition to them; and my Name you ſhall hear, when moſt it ought to be eſteemed by you; and then you may own it.*

*I am, SIR,*

*Your Humble Servant,*

A. B.

*P. S.* WHEN *Cacoſago* pretends to diſturb us, Notice of his Character ſhall be given to the Publick in the *TRUE BRITON.*

THE

# TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXIII.

*——Quid non mortalia pectora cogis*
*Auri ſacra fames! ——* VIRG.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19. 1723.

THE following Letter, written by the Gentleman who ſubſcribes himſelf *A. B.* in the TRUE BRITON No VI. having been unhappily miſlaid, came but now to my Hands. I hope the Ingenious Author will excuſe this late inſerting of it, and favour me with his farther Correſpondence.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

THE obliging Manner in which you received my former Letter, has encouraged me to trouble you again. A Correſpondence with a Gentleman ſo heartily

heartily engag'd in his Country's Intereſt, is highly agreeable to me.

YOU have touch'd upon the great Increaſe of our National Debts, and have obſerv'd, that Two *viſible* Cauſes of it, have been the *Mediterranean* and *Baltick* Squadrons.

BUT after all, Sir, what a glorious and happy Way of ſpending our Money is this, if compar'd with what I have juſt read in an admir'd Author?

" A STRANGER having publickly ſaid, that " he could teach *Dionyſius* the Tyrant of *Syracuſe*, *an* " *infallible Way* to find out and diſcover all the Con- " ſpiracies which his Subjects ſhould contrive againſt " him; *Dionyſius* hearing of it, caus'd the Man to " be brought to him, that he might learn an Art ſo " neceſſary to his Preſervation; and having ask'd " him, By what Art he might make ſuch Diſcoveries? " the Fellow made Anſwer, That he ſhould give him " a *Talent*, and afterwards boaſt that he had obtain'd " ſome mighty Secret from him."

TO what a miſerable Condition were the *Syracuſian* Subjects reduc'd, to have their Treaſure laviſh'd out in Sham-Contrivances againſt themſelves?

BUT this generally uſed to be the laſt Contrivance of ſuch Powers, as were too tyrannical and hated to ſupport themſelves by any other means.

NO one can be ſo Malicious or Weak as to imagine, here is any Reflection intended upon any Gen-

tleman who has the Honour to be intruſted with the Care of the National Revenue. It would be injurious to ſuppoſe, that a Cenſure upon *Aſtrologers*, would reflect upon Sir *Iſaac Newton*; or a Jeſt upon *Quacks*, affront a *Mead* or a *Friend*.

AS to the 300 *l.* indeed, which is ſaid to have been given to *Neyno*, with a Promiſe of 2000 more, if it was true, that may ſerve for a Warning to all others. How they receive any Money of that Kind, ſince *Neyno* loſt his Life ſo ſoon after it.

AS to the Propoſal which Mr. *Kelly* declared to the Lords, was made to him by an Under-Secretary, by Order of his Superior, that caſts no Reflection upon the *Exchequer*, it not appearing that he was to have any Preſent of the Nation's Money; for the Propoſal being general, no one can ſay, but that it might be ſome *Place*, and not any Money, that was intended to be the Reward of his telling *Truth*.

THE *Lady* who was depriv'd of her Liberty on Suſpicion of *aiding* and *abetting* a *Nurſe* of the *Pretender*'s Child, was not loaded with Irons, nor committed to *Newgate*: She was only deliver'd over to *Buggs* in a Meſſenger's Houſe, and was allow'd to ſpeak to her Children thro' a Window, for ſome Months together. She has ſince been admitted to Bail, and her Friends hope ſhe will not be try'd for *Milk-Treaſon*.

IF any one ſhould be ſo Fantaſtical as to ſuſpect that the 200,000 *l.* which the Biſhop of *Rocheſter* is ſaid to have receiv'd, and the 50,000 *l.* which an *Alder-*

*Alderman* is reported to have carry'd Abroad, muſt, by the Greatneſs of the Sums, have had Aſſiſtance from the *Exchequer*, I ſhall only reply to ſuch imaginary Heads, That ſuch conjectural Circumſtances cannot be allow'd as any Evidence of the Thing, unleſs they had been declared ſo, by a Vote of Parliament.

EVERY one's General Character is his beſt Defence. A Gentleman who has been known to be too honourable to take a *Bribe*, at a Time when it was very convenient, may very well be ſuppos'd to be neither ſubject to the Power of Money himſelf, nor inclin'd to corrupt other People with it.

BUT after all, the higheſt and even undeniable Evidence of the Integrity of all our Miniſters, is, The Exemplary Puniſhments they have lately ſet on foot.——Every Bill of *Pains* and *Penalties* is to me a plain Proof, that there is neither *Bribery*, nor *Corruption*, nor *Abuſe* of Power, nor *Breach* of Truſt, nor any Ill-Conduct that can ever be charg'd upon any of our Miniſters. Theſe are a Sort of *Death's Head*, that muſt appear at all their Entertainments, and be a conſtant *Memento Mori* to them in every Step they take.

NAY, by the Bills that have lately paſſed, it ſeems not ſufficient for any Miniſter to be innocent himſelf, unleſs all thoſe who are employed with him be ſo likewiſe. —— For if the Corruption and Villainy of any Miniſter, ſhould raiſe an *Odium* againſt them all, and put them all in one Bill, without ſuffering any one to excuſe or defend himſelf, ſuch a Bill need go no farther back for an exact Pre-

cedent for ſuch Juſtice in the Lump, than to the *South-Sea* Directors Act.

EVERY Vote in either Houſe of Parliament to make any *Hear-ſay* Accuſation, or other Circumſtance, be received as Evidence, is a ſufficient Declaration to the Kingdom, that thoſe at the *Helm*, never intend to be ſubject to any *Hear-ſay* Crime, or to come near the ſmalleſt Circumſtances of Guilt.

THESE Bills, as they declare the Innocency of the Miniſtry, ſo do they give a convincing Proof of the happy Union between the Court and Parliament, there having never been ſeen a more general Concurrence in full Parliament, than on that Occaſion.

THE Perſons that oppoſed theſe Bills, being only ſuch as have neither *Places* nor *Penſions*, may be eaſily ſuppoſed to be out of Temper, and through ſuch Reſentment not be able to ſee ſo clearly as thoſe who, by their favourable Situation, have their Minds more at Eaſe.

IT is a ridiculous Thing, to ſuppoſe, that *Juſtice* and *Honour* are leſs regarded by thoſe who have *Places* or *Penſions*, than thoſe that have them not. On the contrary, we ought to believe *thoſe* moſt Juſt and Honourable, who have receiv'd ſuch Marks of Royal Favour; and that it is their Juſtice and Integrity that have intitled them to ſuch Rewards. As Gentlemen in the Army, have Commiſſions given, and are made *Generals*, not to teach them Courage and Bravery, but becauſe they are known to be Brave and Courageous; ſo *Penſions* are conferr'd, not to

*Bribe*

*Bribe* Men to be *Juſt* and *Honourable*, but becauſe they are ſo of themſelves.

THAT this is true, not only appears from the Perſons who have Penſions, but alſo from this, That as ſoon as they ſeem but to ſwerve from the *ſmalleſt* Inſtances of *Truth* and *Integrity*, their Penſions are with-drawn.

SO that though it may have ſome Appearance of Hardſhip for a Nation very much in Debt, to tax their Victuals to ſupport *Penſions*, yet it has this Satisfaction attends it, that we may reckon a Number of *Penſioners* only another Name for a Number of *faſt Friends* to Truth and Honour.

THE *Pretender*'s late Secretary is juſt arrived in *England*, where he has both his *Eſtate* and *Honour* to ſeek; and if, in ſuch a Caſe, He ſhould be allowed a ſmall *Penſion* for the Encouragement of Integrity, what *True Briton* would think much of the Expence? Or, ſuppoſe his Falſeneſs ſhould intitle him to a Reward, we may be ſure, it is ſuch a Falſeneſs, as is as uſeful as Truth, or elſe it will not be rewarded.

THAT Gentleman has nothing but an *Attainder* by Parliament to get off, in Order to be in *Statu Quo*; and I ſuppoſe there is one who can prove it to be the *Blackeſt of Crimes*, for any Gentleman to vote againſt it. —— I long to hear ſome Court-Orators ſet forth this Gentleman's Merit!

I HAVE but one Argument againſt the Neceſſity of Penſions even for the Reward of Virtue, and that

is taken from the Behaviour of the *Scotch* M——bers, and the *Engliſh* B——ps: The Unanimity of theſe Gentlemen in all the late Bills, is to me a convincing Argument, That *Truth* is the ſame in all Nations, and that People of different Northern Latitude may be equally Lovers of it.

THE *Roman* Catholick Bill for raiſing 100,000*l.* upon their Eſtates, is another Inſtance of the Equity and Moderation of ſome Gentlemen: That Bill put the *Stateſman* upon all his Methods, and was carry'd with much Difficulty: If it was any way expenſive; if any Part of our National Trade was barter'd away for it; the Money which is to be raiſed by it, will be ſome Recompence.

THE Gentleman to whoſe Care the Paſſing of that Bill is owing, being too *modeſt* to receive Honour himſelf at preſent, the Thanks will not be returned for it, 'till it can be done without any Appearance of Flattery.

*Your moſt Obedient Servant,*

A. B.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

THE Glare in which we of this Age are taught to behold the celebrated Men of Antiquity, does, for the moſt Part, miſlead our Judgments, and render us dim-ſighted to the more exalted Perfections of our Cotemporaries.

IT

IT would therefore, methinks, be an Undertaking worthy a Perſon of your Character, to draw a kind of Parallel betwixt the *Antient Romans* and *Modern Britons*; for though all your judicious and impartial Readers allow the latter to ſurpaſs the former in every virtuous Accompliſhment, particularly in a diſintereſted Love of their Country; yet your exhibiting this invaluable Truth to the Publick, would be attended with the happy Conſequence of diſabuſing a vaſt Majority of your Fellow-Subjects, and thereby doing Juſtice to our preſent Set of Governors, whoſe matchleſs Endowments have placed them at the Head of Affairs.

AS there is no Room to doubt but (if you enter upon this laudable Work) Juſtice, Clemency, Moderation, nay, the whole Catalogue of Virtues, will come under your Notice, (becauſe the Omiſſion of any one one of them would be highly injurious to our preſent Patriots, who ſeem to have monopolized all that's Great and Praiſe-worthy; ) ſo neither do I ſuppoſe you will, by any means, overlook the Criminal Side of a Publick Character; for, the expoſing thoſe ambitious *Romans* who extinguiſhed the Liberty they were intruſted to preſerve, muſt needs reflect an additional Splendor on ſuch unaſpiring Patriots as at this Time grace the *Britiſh* Helm.

YOU are ſenſible the moſt dangerous Ingredients that can enter into the Compoſition of a Legiſlator or Publick Miniſter, are, *Ambition* and *Avarice*; the one being an inſatiable Thirſt of Power, and the other an immoderate Deſire of accumulating Riches;

But

But as *Avarice*, when abſtracted from *Ambition*, moves in too low a Sphere to compaſs the Subverſion of a State; ſo it will (I think) become you to animadvert chiefly upon *Ambition*, and brand it with a peculiar Mark of your Satire.

UNBOUNDED AMBITION is a meer *State of Nature*. The Evils that have always flow'd from it, ſufficiently evince the Truth of this Aſſertion. If we examine the whole Scope of the *Roman Commonwealth*; how amazingly different are the Scenes which occur to our View! In the firſt Place, we ſee a *Tyranny* overturned, and *Liberty* erected on its Ruins, by the faithful Champions, or (to uſe our own Dialect) *The Old Whigs of Rome*; Next we behold an exquiſite Plan of Government handed down to a Race of Sons, who (for a long Succeſſion of Time) not only preſerved it firm and unſhaken, but likewiſe improved its Original Strength and Beauty.

THUS did that Glorious State continue to flouriſh and diffuſe its proſperous Influence, till at length there ſprang forth from its own Bowels, a Set of overgrown Monſters, whoſe infernal Schemes ſurpaſſed the moſt daring Attempts of the *Tarquins*. Thoſe inteſtine Traytors (at the Time they pretended the greateſt Vigilance and Anxiety for the Conſtitution of their Country) exhauſted the Publick Treaſure; bribed away the natural Honeſty of the People; damped the National Spirit with Military Terrors; and, by an uninterrupted Courſe of Iniquity, made their infamous Aſcent to that Power which ſapped all the Foundations of the *Roman* Happineſs.

THE

THE mean Artifices to which the moſt tow'ring *Ambition* ſtoops, in order to attain its Ends, may ſerve to convince us from how baſe an Origin it proceeds. Sometimes it aſſumes the Mask of Humility, and carries its Hypocriſy to a ſeeming Diſregard of Honours. At other Times, it diſſembles Gratitude, Generoſity, and Friendſhip, and is almoſt Deified under thoſe Specious Appearances; when, in Reality, perhaps, its only Method of attracting ſuch falſe Worſhip, is by laviſhing away part of its Plunder among thoſe mercenary Under-agents who have inliſted themſelves in its deteſtable Service.

BUT of all the Wiles inherent to *Ambition*, I know none more ſordid and contemptible, than that of ſending forth thoſe obnoxious Vermin called *Informers*, who have evermore been look'd upon as the Peſt and Bane of Human Society. There have already been ſo many ineffectual Attempts made to find out the obſcure Riſe and Progreſs of thoſe State Implements, that 'twere in vain for me to think of tracing them through their many intricate Windings; yet thus far I think one may venture to pronounce upon them, *viz.* That for preſent Uſe, they have a near Reſemblance of *Microſcopes*, inaſmuch as they both ſerve alike to magnify whatever Objects are ſeen through them. However, I'm ſatisfied the Parity will not hold throughout; becauſe Experience tells us, That *Informers* can, upon Occaſion, realize Shadows and Non-Entities; whereas *Microſcopes* can only inlarge Realities. *I am, SIR,*

*Your moſt Humble Servant,*

J. F.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXIV.

*——— Sternet Pœnos, Gallumque rebellem;*
*Tertiaque Arma Patri ſuſpendet capta Quirino.*
VIRG.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23. 1723.

OATHS are at preſent the common Converſation of all *Coffee-houſes*, and, what is more extraordinary, of all the *Tea Tables* in Town Nay, it is certain, that the Opinion of the Majority of the Men of this Kingdom ſeems to be ſtrengthned by a Number of Ladies who have Sworn, that the Pretender hath not, nor of Right ought to have, any Claim to theſe Crowns; and this Belief, Thanks to Almighty God, is ſo prevalent here, that no one doubts but that all other Views muſt end at *Tyburn*, but ſuch as mean the true and real Intereſt of our King and Country.

THE

THE Method taken by moſt Governments to ſupport themſelves, is, To become Amiable to the People, and to create ſuch an Eſteem for their Leaders in the Hearts of thoſe who live under them, as muſt convince the whole World, that Liberty and Juſtice are the natural Ingredients to an Independant Conſtitution, and a Mild Adminiſtration.

CONSCIENCES are what muſt be only clogg'd when unjuſt Oaths are Impoſed; But at preſent, no Injunction is laid upon us, but to forſwear our Allegiance to one who has no Title to the Crown, and to bind our ſelves to His Majeſty King GEORGE, who has Governed us with ſo much Mildneſs, Temper, and Moderation, that the whole Kingdom is equally charmed with the Prudence of his Councils, and the Honeſty of his Miniſters.

THE *Jacobites* have ever been as credulous of their own Strength, as their Enemies ſeem to be of their Power; But the greateſt Reaſon upon which the former depended, was in the Credit which thoſe Ladies had, who are now forc'd to abandon their Intereſt by abjuring the Perſon upon whom their chimerical Hopes depended.

WOMEN have ever ſhew'd their Power in this Kingdom, and in the Reign of *Charles* the IId. *Dunkirk* was ſold to gratify a Foreign Lady, whom the King advanced to the Dignity of a Dutcheſs. Thus was the Intereſt of the Crown, and the Good of the People, made ſubſervient to the Smiles and Commands of a mercenary Creature, who was ſent over by

by her Countrymen to plunder our Treaſury, and betray *England* to the Mercy of her Native Land.

THE unfortunate Prince before-mentioned, had many Faults; but over-balanced by his Virtues: And the *Whigs*, who afterwards villainouſly traduced his Memory, and vented their Malice with their uſual Inſolence againſt him, by ſaying in Parliament and Print, That he died a *Papiſt*, were pleaſed in the ſubſequent Reign, to accuſe his Brother with Poiſoning him, becauſe King *Charles* refuſed to ſerve the *Roman* Catholick Cauſe.

THUS may it appear to all impartial Judges, that the *Whigs* have, in former Times, eſteem'd a Man Honeſt or otherwiſe, a Proteſtant or a Papiſt, a Hero or a Devil, as their Intereſt perſuades 'em: And, in their Opinion, no Man is to be eſteem'd a Patriot, but ſuch as can diſtribute the Plunder of their Country amongſt them.

A PERSON who differs with this Set of Creatures, is to be called either a Beggar or a Hero, as he oppoſes or ſtoops to a Court: And one thing is to be ſaid of the *Tories*, That when they oppoſe an Adminiſtration, they act with Honeſty; and when they favour a Miniſtry, they ſupport 'em with Honour. The Death of Queen *ANNE* left this Kingdom in a more Free and Happy State than her Acceſſion found it; and the Bleſſings of the *Revolution* were improved by thoſe that were accuſed of being Adverſaries to it.

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I SHALL only assure my Readers, That my sincere Wish, is, That if ever we see a *Haman*, he may meet with the Fate he prepared for the good *Mordecai*.

THE following Letter is just come to my Hands from my worthy Friend, whose Honesty, I hope, every TRUE BRITON, who reads this Paper, will acknowledge.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR*,

THE *Roman Catholick* Bill, having some small Appearance of Severity, has made many *Old Whigs* to wish, That it had rather pass'd under some *Tory* Administration, than at a Time, when we see no Men in Power, but the undoubted Friends of *Liberty* and *Moderation*. But these are whimsical People, who don't think it sufficient to have their Friends in Power.

THESE Gentlemen don't consider, that *Things* take their *Qualities* from those that do them. If an *Enemy* strikes, we know he intended Mischief; but if a *Parent* makes us feel his Blows, and breaks a Limb or two with the Weight of 'em, we know that he designed our Good, and so should rejoice under his Paternal Care and Tenderness.

THIS is the Light in which Dutiful Subjects, and True Members of a Party, should behold their Friends in Power.

THE

THE *Roman Catholick* Non-conformity may be juſtly ſaid to be purely *Religious*, there being not an Inſtance, that I remember, ſince the *Revolution*, of any one who has changed his Religion, who has not immediately conformed to the Government. Nay, moſt of the late Converts have happened to give ſuch Proof of their Affection to our Conſtitution, as to receive very diſtinguiſhing Marks of Royal Favour.

NOW weak Minds may imagine, that therefore there is ſome Degree of *Religious* Perſecution in this Bill; but with me it is ſufficient to conſider, that there are no Gentlemen in Power, but what are Friends to Religion, and Enemies to Perſecution.

HAD this Bill paſs'd at any Time, when the chief Power was in one Head ſtrong, Lawleſs Miniſter, who thought himſelf ſuperior to all Rules; who had no Regard either how he divided his Friends, or increaſed his Enemies; that hated every thing that was Legal and Regular, and ſcarce delighted in Gain, except it was Plunder; had this Bill paſſed in ſuch Times, there would have been ſome Reaſon to have diſliked it: But as we know the Reverſe of all this to be true at preſent, there is as much Reaſon for all good Subjects to be free from all Uneaſineſs under it.

THE more obvious Reaſons for this Bill ſeem to me to be as follow:

I. TO curb and reſtrain the reſtleſs Endeavours of the *Papiſts*, to diſturb the Peace of the Kingdom.

FOR,

FOR *John Plunket*, whose whole Estate is taken from him, and who was a principal Agent in the late most horrid and dreadful Plot, appears upon the strictest Examination, to be a *Papist*.

II. THE *Papists* being charged as *Idolaters*, such a Mark as this set upon them, must satisfy all good People, that the *Ministry* are no way inclined to *Idolatry*, which must be a great Benefit to the Kingdom.

III. THAT the *Papists* may not lie under any worldly Temptation to continue in a Religion so destructive of their Souls.

THIS Reason, indeed, seems a little to contradict a late Favour granted to the *Quakers*, which is such an Encouragement to continue in their Delusion, that if they were to turn *Christians*, they would forfeit their Title to it.

IV. TO enable us to procure better Terms for the Foreign Protestants in *Popish* Dominions.

V. TO induce all *Roman Catholick* Princes to be steady and sincere in their Alliances to support the Protestant Succession in *England*.

VI. TO prevent any more Religious Wars; for the *Papists* being stript of their Money, will not be able to contribute any Thing towards them.

VII. THAT it may henceforward be a Rule, that all *Plots* be paid for by a *Tax* upon some Party, or

Body of the People, that the Nation in general may be frighted at the Return of them.

IT is ſomething particular, that our *Proteſtant Women* are to clear themſelves from a Share in this *Catholick Bill*, by taking all the Oaths that relate to the Government. The Clemency and Wiſdom of the Legiſlature has taken ſuch Care of our Female Children, that they ſhall not have theſe Oaths forc'd upon them, 'till they are arrived at the Maturity of Eighteen. Whether they are to be *Confirmed* firſt by the *Biſhop*, or to ſtay for *Confirmation* 'till they have ſeaſoned their Minds with theſe Oaths, is not mentioned in the Bill.

I DON'T know of any Proviſion that is made for very Old or Infirm Women. It is a Convenience for ſuch to live where the Parſon is a *Juſtice of the Peace*, that when he brings the Sacrament to their Beds, he may tender the Oaths along with it.

I HAVE heard ſome People very large in their Exclamations againſt *Creeds* and *Forms of Faith*, as too great Reſtraints upon the Minds of Proteſtants.

BUT, perhaps, to be obliged to *Swear*, is not ſo great a Reſtraint, as to be obliged to *Believe*.

I SUPPOSE theſe Oaths muſt be ſomething more than barely Lawful, and that the taking of them muſt be ſomething like keeping the Commandments, or elſe it would hardly ſuit with the Temper of our Religion to ſet whole Families a Swearing all over the Kingdom. —— I have heard of *General Faſts*

to

to implore the Bleſſings of God upon a Kingdom; Whether this general Swearing be intended to avert any Judgments of Heaven, I can't preſume to ſay.

Dr. WAKE (now Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*) publiſhed a *Practical Diſcourſe concerning Swearing*, in the Year 1696. P. 141. This learned Divine ſays, *It were much to be wiſhed, that the Neceſſities of Governments would permit, that an Oath ſhould never be impoſed upon, nor required of, any, but upon ſome greater Exigence, to be ſure, more ſeldom than now it is.*

THIS great Divine condemns the too much Swearing at that Time, though it is to be obſerved, that there was then no *Oath of Abjuration*, nor were any Perſons oblig'd to take the others, except they were in ſome Poſt or Office.

WERE his *Grace* to write upon the ſame Subject in ſome future Time, when Oaths ſhall be multiplied, he muſt either alter his Divinity, or carry his Charge much higher, and affirm, as he does in another Place, that becauſe of *Swearing*, *not only Mens Souls ſuffer, but our very Land itſelf mourneth.*

THIS Learned Divine goes on thus:

*AND when it is required, ſuch Care ſhould be taken in the adminiſtring of it, as to raiſe in Mens Minds a ſerious Conſideration of what they are about*, &c. I don't know of any Proviſion of this kind in the Act, or that there is any Methods preſcribed in it to raiſe Mens Minds to a Religious Reverence of an

Oath: Nor have I heard that the Biſhops, in their ſeveral Dioceſſes, are taking Pains to inſtruct their Young and Antient Females, in the Sacred Solemn Nature of an Oath, or to prevent their taking theſe in Raſhneſs.

THE Penalty that attends Recuſancy is no great Motive to Conſideration and Serioufneſs; and if Dr. *Hoadly*, the late Biſhop of *Bangor*, will ſhew, how People who Swear to ſave their Eſtates, can be ſaid to ſwear in *Sincerity*, He will do an acceptable Piece of Service to the Female World.

HIS *Grace* of *Canterbury* tells us, *p.* 67. *As for theſe Oaths which are impoſ'd by the Publick Authority, the Subject's Rule muſt be, to yield to them, in all* Honeſt and Lawful Matters, *and to take ſuch as he can, with a good Conſcience, take.*

THIS ſhews us the Error of ſome People, who diſregard what it is to which they Swear, and throw all upon the *Legiſlature*, and think that they may ſwear to any thing that is required by Authority; or, as a Lady ſaid, in great Wrath, and great Principle, That ſhe would Swear any thing, rather than any Government ſhould get Six-pence by her. —— But if Oaths, as this great Divine obſerves, tho' impos'd by Authority, are only to be taken, becauſe they contain *Lawful and Honeſt* Matters, and ſuch as are conſiſtent with a good Conſcience, as they are at preſent; How is it, that this Doctrine is not preſs'd and recommended at this Juncture?

THE Arch-Biſhop, ſpeaking of Aſſertory Oaths, ſaith, *p.* 15. *He forſwears himſelf, who ſwears to the*

*Truth*

*Truth of any Fact, which he either certainly knows to be falſe, or does not know to be true.* —— *It matters not whether a Man certainly knows what he ſwears to be falſe, it is enough that he does not know it to be true. Nay, ſhould it happen to be true, yet if he thought otherwiſe, and yet ſwore to the Truth of it, he forſwore himſelf.* ——

THIS Learned Arch-Biſhop farther ſays, "*That* "*he who would ſwear with a good Conſcience, muſt* "*duly conſider what he is about to ſay, and proceed* "*according to the ſtricteſt Meaſures of Truth and Fi-*" *delity; and that he forſwears himſelf, if he ſwears* "*to a Matter as certain, of which he has only a pro-*" *bable Aſſurance.*" Now, if ſome certain Oaths were to be try'd by this Standard, altho' they might be demonſtrable Truths, yet this may not be ſo clear to all Old Women and Girls, as to need no Explanation; and therefore whoever ſhall ſwear to thoſe Truths, without as full Aſſurance of their being ſo, as I have, muſt, according to this Doctrine, forſwear themſelves.

HOW neceſſary is it therefore, that all who have any Land in the Kingdom, ſhould now be inform'd of the Nature of *Certainty* and *Probability*; and the Degrees of Knowledge which every one muſt have of thoſe Matters to which he Swears?

WERE the Laity, Male and Female, Young and Old, to ſwear, That Epiſcopacy is of Divine Right, and that the Presbyters have no Authority to Ordain in the Church, I queſtion not but Nineteen in Twenty of a certain Order, would warn the People

committed to their Care, of the Danger of ſuch Oaths, and tell their tender Females Ten thouſand Horrors of Perjury.

THE little *Ebony Doctor* would have his Conſcience awaken'd upon ſuch an Occaſion, and exert his Caſuiſtry for the good of Souls. He would plainly prove, That ſuch Oaths would curſe the Iſland, and bring us into the Condition of *Sodom* and *Gomorrha*.

IT is not long ſince I ſaw the Hands of many of our Reverend Biſhops ſubſcrib'd to an Abhorrence of the late Unnatural Rebellion; and that Abhorrence was publiſh'd thro' the Kingdom.

COULD I ſee as many Reverend Hands to this *Caſe of Conſcience*, to inſtruct the Young and Old that are to ſwear all over the Kingdom, demonſtrating, that it is as ſafe to abjure the Pretender, as to truſt in God, their very Enemies would be forced to own, That they fear'd God, as much as they honour'd the King.

BUT if all Orders of People are to be left to themſelves, and neither inform'd how to ſwear with full Aſſurance of the Truth of what they are to affirm, nor exhorted to refuſe, till they can ſwear with ſuch Safety, I ſhall only recommend to that Reverend Bench theſe Words of Scripture; —— *Son of Man! I have made thee a Watchman unto the Houſe of Iſrael; therefore hear the Word at my Mouth, and give them Warning from me; When I ſay unto the Wicked, Thou ſhalt ſurely die, and thou giveſt him not Warning, nor ſpeakeſt to warn the Wicked from his wicked*

*wicked Way, to ſave his Life; the ſame wicked Man ſhall die in his Iniquity; but his Blood will I require at thy Hand!*

I HOPE, Sir, that you will think this as fit for your Paper as my former Letters, and believe me to be

*Your moſt Sincere Admirer,*

A. B.

THE

# TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXV.

*Omne animi vitium tanto conſpectius in ſe*
*Crimen habet, quanto major qui peccat habetur.* JUV.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26. 1723.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

IT is generally agreed, that we ought to regulate our Opinions of Men by the Conformity of their Behaviour to the Rules of *Moral Virtue*; Rules ſufficiently obvious to all Perſons, who will conſider them with Attention; and eſpecially in all thoſe Caſes which relate to the common Duties of *Social Life*.

THERE

THERE have been Perſons in the World who have been highly careſſed, and, to outward Appearance at leaſt, eſteemed, who yet, whether conſidered in their Private or their more Publick Capacity, have not acted conformably to the Moral Obligations they are under, on either Account; but, as it ſeems, in a direct and determined Oppoſition to them.

OTHER Reaſons may be aſſigned for the irregular and corrupt Judgment of the World in Favour of ſuch Perſons; but I ſhall ſpecify one, which at preſent occurs to my Thoughts, and is, perhaps, among other Cauſes of Popular Error, the moſt general and prevalent. I mean, *The Influence of ill Example*, when wicked Men have found means to eſtabliſh themſelves in Power, and to create *numerous Dependencies*.

THE *Pomp* and *Splendor* of their Condition; the *viſible Homage* that is every where paid to them, the *Obſequiouſneſs* wherewith Perſons both of Superior Underſtanding and Quality are often obſerved to approach them, do ſo dazle and confound People of weak Minds, that they can ſee nothing, during ſuch *Prepoſſeſſions*, in a *true Light*. Even *they* who are more capable of diſtinguiſhing *Real* from *Counterfeit Merit*, yet, to favour their own *Indolence*, and to avoid the *Pain* and *Trouble* of *Attention*, chuſe rather *implicitely* to follow the Multitude, and to take up with *common Appearances* of Things, than to examine them by the Teſt and Evidence of *Reaſon*.

AND even where the Wickedneſs of Great Men is too notorious to be denied or diſſembled, Reaſons of

*In-*

*Intereſt* and *Dependance*, will, notwithſtanding, ſo far blind the Eyes, and corrupt the Hearts of Men, as to furniſh a thouſand Pretences, ſuch as they are, if not to *juſtify* their *Miſconduct*, at leaſt to *palliate* and *excuſe* it; by attributing their Meaſures to *extraordinary Exigencies* of State; ſometimes to *Cauſes* which never ſubſiſted; at other times, to *remote Proſpects* of *future* Dangers.

UPON theſe Grounds we diſcover why it ſo frequently happens, that neither *Perſons* nor *Things* are called by their right Names; why in *High* and *Low Life*, we appropriate very *different* Characters to Men, and treat *them* after a very *different* Manner who yet act upon the *ſame* vicious and diſhoneſt Motives; why in ſome Parts of the World, one Man charged for a *ſingle Robbery* on the Highway, committed, perhaps, for a *Trifle*, or the *mere Relief* of his *Neceſſities*, ſhall be *executed*; whilſt another, who has inriched himſelf by *continual Depredations*, for a *Courſe* of ſome Years, at the *Expence* of his *Country*, ſhall not only eſcape with *Impunity*, but, by a *ſervile Herd* of *Flatterers* and *Sycophants*, have all his Actions crowned with *Applauſe*.

THIS puts me in Mind of an Excellent Saying of a Pyrate to *Alexander the Great*, as mentioned by Sir *Roger L'Eſtrange*, in his *Fables and Stories Moralized*.

THAT great Prince 'demanding of a *Corſaire*, 'that he had taken Priſoner (to uſe that celebrated 'Writer's own Words) How he durſt preſume to 'ſcour the Seas at that inſolent Rate? *Why, truly*, 'ſays he, *I ſcour the Seas for my Profit and my Plea-*

'*ſure*,

'*ſure, juſt as you ſcour the World: Only I am to be a* '*Rogue for doing it with* One Galley; *and You muſt* '*be a mighty Prince, forſooth, for doing the ſame* '*Thing with an* Army. *Alexander* was ſo pleas'd with 'the Bravery of the Man, that he immediately gave 'him his Liberty.'

THIS Story that excellent *Mythologiſt* Moralizes as follows. '*Power*, ſays he, is no *Privilege* for '*Violence*: It may create ſome Sort of *Security* in the '*Execution*; but it gives no Manner of *Right* to the '*Committing* of it: For *Oppreſſion* and *Injuſtice* are 'the very ſame Thing in an *Emperor*, that they are 'in a *Pirate*. This, continues Sir *Roger*, was brave-'ly *ſaid* of the *Corſaire*, and it was as bravely *done* of '*Alexander*; but whether it wrought upon his *Con-'ſcience* or his *Honour*, may be a Queſtion; that is 'to ſay, Whether he was more moved with the *Rea-'ſon* of the *Thing*, or with the *Courage* of the *Man*. 'But it looks well, however, either way; for *Alex-'ander* not only forgave the Affront of being made 'the greater Thief of the Two, but gave the poor 'Fellow his Freedom over and above. And we have 'likewiſe this Document left us for our Inſtruction; 'That in all Fortunes and Extremes, a Great Soul 'will never want Matter to work upon.'

*I am, SIR,*

*Your moſt Humble Servant,*

B. A.

To

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*Non bene conducti venduit periuria teſtes.* OVID.

*SIR,*

THE Subject of your Paper, ſo well becomes its Title, that it is juſtly valued by every *True Briton*; for what can diſtinguiſh him more truly than a Publick Spirit? And how can a Writer better ſhew it, than in declaiming againſt, and expoſing Publick Vice, and recommending Publick Virtue?

AS this ſeems to be the Honeſt Aim of all your Papers, I have wonder'd from what Motives the Malice of your Adverſaries ſprings, having not found one of them who would point any particular Error, but in a general and ſcurrilous Manner, endeavour to decry the Whole.

BUT the greateſt Misfortune your Paper lies under, is, an obſtinate Notion, that you are prejudiced againſt ſome Great Men, and deſign to expoſe them; this makes it impoſſible for you to paint a Character, be it never ſo vile, or expoſe a Vice never ſo odious, but theſe Men, through an *unmannerly Zeal* to their *Patrons*, impute it as deſigned for them; and ſo compliment their Maſters for the Original from which You copyed your Paper. Thus while they, by their own ſtrange wreſted Applications, *compoſe* the *Satyr*, and *ridicule* their *Benefactors*, they moſt unjuſtly and falſely accuſe you for the Libel.

SIR,

SIR, AS I think ſuch Scriblers not worth mine, much leſs your Concern, ſo neither will I aim at giving your Papers their juſt Praiſes: Thoſe that read them know their Worth, and deſervedly approve them: I would only beg you will be pleaſed in ſome one of your Papers to expoſe a Crime, which though it cannot affect the Government itſelf, yet it does very much hinder the *diſtributive Juſtice* of it; and that is PERJURY or *Falſe* or *Corrupt* Evidence in our Courts of Record.

WHERE can injured Innocence fly, but to Juſtice? and how can Juſtice be adminiſtred, when Judgment is miſguided and corrupted by *Perjury*? Evidence is the clear Eye of Juſtice, by which ſhe diſcerns: the Rule ſhe acts by, and the Guide which directs her; Evidence is the Pole-ſtar that ſteers her thro' the moſt hazy and rugged Courſes; and, in ſhort, is the Soul that animates and directs her Motions; Therefore, whenever Falſe Evidence rules her Decrees, they muſt neceſſarily, and in Spite of the Endeavours of the moſt upright Judges, be cruel, unjuſt and barbarous; then it is, the Guilty is acquitted with Applauſe, and the Innocent puniſhed with Shame; the Villain triumphs in his Wickedneſs, and the Honeſt Man is depreſſed with a Load of Infamy and Guilt.

PERJURERS, and ſuch as procure and ſuborn them, are certainly the moſt reprobate of Men. All Mankind ſhould avoid the leaſt Commerce with them, as of Perſons infected: There is nothing Baſe they *cannot* undertake, and, what is worſe, but what *they will* undertake, to ſatiate their Malice or promote

mote their Intereſt, or that of their Imployers: I would therefore beg this deteſtable Vice may be the Subject of your Maſterly Satire. And you will much oblige,

SIR,

*Your Obedient Humble Servant,*

H. M.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

## NUMB. XXVI.

*——— Ergo ubi prava*
*Stultitiæ, hic ſumma eſt inſania: qui ſceleratus,*
*Et furioſus erit. ——— HOR.*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30. 1723.

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

THE following General Reflections which occurr'd to me on Reading the Riſe and Fall of ſeveral Court Favourites, as the *Spencers*, *Gaveſton*, &c. in our former *Engliſh* Reigns, may not perhaps be unacceptable to many of your Readers.

I THINK it unneceſſary to aſſure you, as I can do with the utmoſt Sincerity, that no living Characters

fters are or can be here pointed at; and if the vile Scriblers who ſubſiſt by attacking your Paper, and whoſe Muſhroom-Performances muſt ſink into everlaſting Oblivion whenever you ceaſe to write, ſhall think fit to compliment any of their Patrons with an Application, I hope their unmannerly Zeal will meet with ſuch a Repulſe, as Sir *Charles Duncombe*, when he was Lord Mayor, gave to a certain buſy Fellow, who, expecting Thanks for his Pains, officiouſly brought him the moſt ſcurrilous Invective that ever was written againſt a Publick Magiſtrate. *My Lord*, ſays the Fellow, *here is a Paper that treats your Lordſhip's Character with the moſt abominable Freedom. The vile Author repreſents you as ſprung from a Dunghill, and that all your Riches and Grandeur are the Product of the moſt Villainous Cheats and Baſeneſs that ever were practiſed.* The wiſe Magiſtrate, with ſuitable Indignation, anſwer'd, *Dare you, Sir, have the Impudence to aſſert, that ſo vile a Character was drawn for me? I know not in Life the Man that theſe Garments will fit. 'Tis you, who preſume to apply them to me, that make the Reflections; and I charge you begone from my Preſence, and never ſee me more.*

*SIR*,

'TIS undoubtedly a Truth, that KINGS cannot Reign without Miniſters of State; and 'tis no leſs certain, that they do not, or cannot Live without Favourites. The Wiſeſt Princes heretofore in the World, the *Auguſtus*'s, and the *Antonine*'s; the *Conſtantine*'s, and *Theodoſius*'s, if they ſhould revive, would once again, as well as formerly, give Teſtimonies of human Affection, and might with Reaſon

Reaſon love one Man *(cæteris paribus)* rather than another; for Virtue is not ſo auſtere and ſavage as to deſtroy Nature; nor do Politicks oblige a Prince to diveſt himſelf of Humanity: His Motions need only be Juſt and Well regulated.

LET him ſhew his Bounty and his Kindneſs to particular Perſons; let him enjoy his Diverſions, his Complacencies, and his Friendſhips, and his Eſtimations too, but ſtill it were to be wiſh'd he would obſerve a Proportion and Meaſure in the Diſtribution of his Favours.

LET him not beſtow Preferments, the proper Dowry of Virtue, on worthleſs Perſons: Neither let him impoveriſh the Publick to make one Man unmeaſurably Rich. Let that Man who is the Prince's Favourite or Confidant (the Dictates both of Religion and Reaſon allow it) be like the Sun, which more particularly darts down his Beams; but let there not be any who Day and Night beſieges his King; by ſo doing he appropriates the Monarch to himſelf, and retains him as it were by a violent Uſurpation, the moſt horrible Monopoly in Nature: Thus Impaling a Good which ought to belong to the Publick, he attempts the ſame Injuſtice, as if he hid the Sun from all the World.

THERE is nothing that recommends a Prince's Judgment, or that is of more Importance to his Safety, than a diſcreet Choice of his Miniſters. A Man cannot ſteer a Veſſel, nor guide a Chariot, nor manage a Horſe, without previous Addreſs and Method: And ſhall theſe who are to direct Mankind, jump

into Employ without any preparatory Diſcipline? We come to the Knowledge of Affairs, and the Dexterity of ordering them, by Experience and Reaſon. A Place of high Station, does not preſently make a Man wiſer than he was before; nor are we to expect Revelations, nor think that Heaven is obliged to endue a Prince's Miniſters with the Spirit of Well-Governing, and render his precipitate Election valid and unſucceſsful by a *ſudden* Illumination. Courtiers are the *Matter*, and the Prince the *Artiſt*, who can eaſily render this *Matter* fairer, but not better than it is: He can add to it Colours and Shape on the Outſide, but cannot give it any interior Goodneſs. He can beſtow the Office, and the Title, but he cannot order Qualifications; ſuch are, The Knowledge of Things paſt; the Penetration into Things to come; That Light which diſembroils the Intrigues of Courts; The Science of making War; and the Dexterity of treating for a Peace. In a Word, He may make an Idol, but he can neither make a Spirit of it; nor an able Man.

YET even in *Chriſtendom* ſuch Idols have been ſeen. There have been always, and in all Governments, ſome unworthy Perſons exalted to Grandeur; For it has often happened, that ſuch an Authority has been evident in Princes, as has been both Blind and Dumb; which neither Knows nor Underſtands; which Appears only, and Dazles: Pure, refin'd Authority, one may call it; for it has not any Mixture, either of Virtue or Reaſon.

THERE have been Grandees only remarkable by their Greatneſs, and their Greatneſs has been all

*without*

*without* them; They reſemble certain Fruitleſs Mountains in ſome Parts of the World, which I have been in, which produce neither Herb nor Plant: They ſeem to touch Heaven with their ſtately Tops, yet ſerve the Earth for no manner of Uſe or Benefit at all; Therefore their Sterility makes their Height accurs'd.

PRINCES therefore ſhould make ſtrict Enquiry into the Abilities and Virtues of thoſe whom they imploy: They ſhould not ſuffer themſelves to be led by *Occaſion*, but take for their Inſtruments ſuch as are able; not ſuch as ſtand next, or firſt offer themſelves; wherein too, they ſhould regard not only a *general* Sufficiency, but a *particular* Fitneſs for diſcharging thoſe Employs in which they place them.

NOR ſhould a Prince thruſt Perſons into his Council merely becauſe their Converſation is grateful to him. We ought to make a Difference between Perſons that *Delight* us, and thoſe that are *Profitable* to us; betwixt the *Recreations* of the *Mind*, and the *Neceſſities* of the *State*: And if a Prince takes not ſpecial Care in this *Examen*, he may commit irremediable Errors, and ſuch, perhaps, whereby he may render not only his own Reign miſerable, but alſo his Memory reproach'd in Ages to come. He therefore ought not to follow his own private Affections or Inclinations, but abandon all Capricio's and Fancies in this Matter. Let him in other Things ſport and divert himſelf as he pleaſes, but in the Choice of ſuch high Concerns, he muſt uſe the *Severity* of his Judgment, and at firſt bring with him an *Indifference of Will*; it ought to be a pure *Operation of Reaſon*, freed and devoid of *Love* and *Hate*: For the Miſchiefs

ariſing from ill Miniſters, are no leſs *fatal*, than *various*: If they are Ignorant, they ruine the State, their Maſter, and Themſelves, by their Weakneſs: If they are Falſe and Treacherous, they ſet the Publick to Sale, and betray its Intereſt: If they are Men of ill Principles, they blow up their Prince to Vanity by Flattery, and baniſh Truth from the Palace; They rob their Maſter of his Nobleſt and moſt Stable Throne, *Viz.* The Hearts of his Subjects, by creating Fears, and mutual Jealouſies between them: and whilſt with vain Pretences and Endeavours, no leſs impracticable than unjuſt, ſuch Men would ſeem to make the Prince more Abſolute than his Forefathers, their Meaſures naturally tend to render him leſs Conſiderable at Home, and conſequently leſs Rever'd Abroad, than any of his Anceſtors: They manage Affairs according to their private Fancies; and having committed ſuch Extravagancies as make them liable to Juſtice, the reſt of their Life is ſpent, not to conſult their Maſter's Advantage, but their own Safety, and they make his Intereſt ſtoop to their Conveniencies.

WHAT care ſuch Miniſters how much the People are provok'd? They had rather that their whole Country ſhould be involv'd in all the Miſeries and Deſolations of a Civil War, or be made a Prey to a Foreign Invader, than that they themſelves ſhould be brought to an Account before an Impartial Tribunal; for, in the firſt Caſe, they hope to ſhift among the Croud, but in the Second, can expect nothing but certain Ruine; for their Conſcious Fears preſaging what will happen, they know well enough, that the Ills which they have done, muſt be defended with greater; and if the Law lives, that they muſt dye.

WHERE-

WHEREFORE, ſince ſuch great Miſchiefs naturally attend the Conduct of Evil Miniſters, in whatſoever Countries they happen to preſide, as the Hiſtories of all Nations and Ages ſufficiently evince, it might well be wiſh'd, That this, or the like Prayer, were added to all the Publick Litanies of Chriſtians, *Viz.* 'Lord! turn away from all other States an 'Evil which is the Cauſe of ſo many other Evils. 'Deny not Sovereign Princes that Spirit of Conduct, 'which is fit for them to govern by! Give them 'Underſtanding enough to Counſel themſelves well, 'and to chuſe their Counſellors as they ought.'

TO conclude; As the firſt Advances of Evil Miniſters have been commonly baſe and ſhameful, their Progreſs wicked and deſtructive, their ſhort Continuances attended with Hazards and Anxieties, ſo their Eclipſes have ever been moſt fatal, and their Falls deſperate. They are generally ſurprized with Ruine, and their Defeat is like that of Forlorn Troops, which are cut in Pieces before they can rally, or be re-inforc'd.

PRIVATE Men oftentimes fall on their Legs, and find Friends to relieve, or at leaſt to commiſerate them; And Bankrupt Merchants are daily ſeen to riſe again like *Phœnixes* out of their own Duſt. But with Courtiers and Stateſmen, there are no Degrees of Misfortune; thoſe Ladders which they clamber'd up with ſo much Sweat, Addreſs, and Difficulty, upon the ſmalleſt Failure of their aſcending higher, ſerve but to render their Falls more precipitate; and when they are hurl'd down from all their exalted Glories, 'tis their chiefeſt Comfort, if they do not ſurvive their Deſtiny, nor live to ſee their Families buried in

their Ruins. Then, alas! too late, have ſuch Miniſters found themſelves forſaken of all thoſe Alliances, which they had with ſo much Subtlety contracted, vainly imagining to have laid a Foundation of everlaſting Greatneſs. Then have their Cobweb Policies been inſtantly unravell'd; for no ſooner have they begun to decline, but their moſt obliged Creatures have ſhunn'd them moſt, and, like *Haman*'s Wife, been the firſt Harbingers of their Deſtruction. Thoſe that were raiſed by their Countenance, not daring to own any Love or Honour to their Perſons, leſt They too ſhould be involv'd in their Ruin, by being merely ſuſpected acceſſary to their Crimes, are the firſt that deſert them: Nay, their own Servants conclude it but Juſtice, as well as Prudence, to expoſe their Faults. Their Enemies triumph over 'em, and even their Friends think it Charity enough to afford them an inſulting Pity; and the People, who with Reaſon univerſally hated and feared them before, are now privileg'd to treat them with the greateſt Contumely. Nay, the Prince himſelf, in whoſe Service perhaps they wounded their Conſciences, and for whoſe Pleaſure they now bleed, hoping by their Downfall to gratify Many, and pleaſe All, gives them up as a Propitiatory Sacrifice to the inrag'd Multitude, and becomes as inexorable to *their* Petitions, as *they* had been formerly to the more juſt Requeſts of others in Diſtreſs.

IN fine, having long ſince forfeited their Innocency (the ſweet Retreat of oppreſſed Virtue) they at laſt find no Sanctuary ſufficient to protect them, but are hurry'd out of the World, loaded with Guilt and Shame, and follow'd with the Execrations of all Mankind!

*I am, Yours,*

Z. Y.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXVII.

*——————Sive ego prave,*
*Seu recte, hoc volui, ne sis patronus mihi.*—— HOR.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2. 1723.

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

READING the other Day some of *Matchiavel*'s Tracts; I was not a little pleas'd to see him very justly display his most excellent Talent, in reviling those *Ear-Whigs* to Kings and Princes, call'd Court Favourites. I remark'd some of his Quotations; and, as well as I could Translate them, I now inclose them to You, believing they will not be unacceptable to many of your Readers.

HE that ſtands by, ſays that great *Politician*, and obſerves the ſupple Addreſſes, and ſedulous Applications of Courtiers; How greedily Men reputed Wiſe, ſell their Liberties, and ſacrifice their Time; With what Patience they undergo Attendance more grievous than the Toil of Gally Slaves, or Popiſh Pilgrimages; he will be ready to imagine, that it muſt needs be ſome wondrous Myſtery which deſerves ſuch Superſtition: Nor can he ſurely expect to obtain leſs than the Philoſopher's Stone, when he ſees ſo many Furnaces ſet on Work, and ſuch rare Alchymiſts ingag'd.

IF he caſts but a ſuperficial Eye on the lofty Flights of the Favourites of Princes, he ſees how, in Effect, they manage all the Reins of Government, though their Maſters ſit in the Saddle; how they give Laws to the People by recommending Judges; nay, and biaſs Religion itſelf, by beſtowing Eccleſiaſtical Dignities, and the Fatteſt Benefices, and make even the Braveſt of Soldiers, kiſs, as it were, their very Feet, ſeeing that they can neither get nor hold any Command of Honour or Profit, but by and through their good Graces.

HE that remarks all this, and alſo obſerves, how their ſeeming Virtues, and perhaps but imaginary Abilities, are magnified, and multiply'd, and even their Errors with Veneration conceal'd, extenuated or juſtified; and with what Eaſe they trample upon their Adverſaries, and prefer their Dependants; How can he refrain from Drawing in ſuch a Lottery which is

ſo

ſo tempting and plauſible? Or how can he eſcape thoſe delicious Charms, which would almoſt delude a Stoick to miſtake ſuch a Fortune for his *Summum Bonum*?

BUT, alas! theſe are only Out-ſides to amuſe the Ignorant; theſe ſtately Eſcutcheons ſerve but to hide a dead Corpſe, and theſe excellent Odors are only to perfume a Sepulchre. The Factions wherewith every Court or State is continually pregnant; the Envy and Emulation, which, tho' not ſo loud, is yet perhaps fiercer than open War; the Spies which, like Eunuchs in *Turky*, are there ſet upon all Mens Actions, and the ſlippery Path on which they walk; the keen and peſtilent Slanders, againſt which Innocency itſelf is ſcarce Armour-proof: Theſe, and a Thouſand other Inconveniencies, are not preſently diſcovered; and indeed, 'tis perhaps fit they ſhould be concealed, leſt otherwiſe Men of Senſe and Integrity ſhould avoid Courts and Palaces, as Perſons in Debt do Priſons, and dread Greatneſs like Infection.

AND this would yet be more apprehended, if they could have either the Prudence or Leiſure to reflect, How many Perſons, that, in a private Station, were Honeſt, Juſt, and Reſolute Patriots, when once preferr'd to the *Misfortune* of being *Great*, have then abandon'd all Thoughts of the Publick Weal: Their Integrity muſt now retire to give place to their new-acquir'd Fortune; and their too *rank* Preferment ſtifles their Honeſty; ſo that ever after, as Courtiers, they muſt aim only to advance their own narrow Intereſt, and blow up ſome ſhort liv'd Sparks to warm their *private* Fingers out of the *publick* Aſhes of their Ruin'd Country.

THEIR

THEIR Innocency upon their Exaltation, laſts ſcarce ſo long as the firſt Man's did in the Terreſtrial Paradiſe: And though they were not wicked before, yet they believe their Wickedneſs may be diſpens'd with in this Station; and therefore, as the Fooliſh Wiſe Man of Old, flung all his Goods into the Sea, that he might more freely philoſophize, ſo they reſolve to rid themſelves of their Conſciences, that with leſs Incumbrance they may manage the Affairs of State.

TO avoid Contempt, not being able to render themſelves reſpected, they ſtudy to make themſelves fear'd. They believe, that there is no Way left to blot out the Memory of their former Condition, but by the exorbitant Exerciſe of their Power; and that they ſhall not hinder the People from Laughing at their Infirmities, but by imploying them to Weep for their own Miſeries.

ONE wou'd think it the higheſt Degree of Folly, that Men not unacquainted with Hiſtory, and ſufficiently warn'd by Experience of their own Times, ſhould adventure on the very ſame Precipices, which prov'd ſo fatal to all that went before them. But we muſt remember, that *Ambition* is as blind as *Love*: They, like the famous fond Aſtronomer, are gazing at Stars, 'till they tumble into the Ditch; their Eyes are fix'd on the Glittering Vanities Above, ſuggeſted by a deluded Imagination; ſo that they never look down on the Wrecks, and ſhatter'd Fortunes, and diſmember'd Bodies, and Infamous Memories of their Predeceſſors. For few or none have the Wiſdom to foreſee, how

how hard it is in Greatneſs to purſue Honeſt and Safe Maxims; what Reſolution is requir'd for the Potent to be Innocent; what ſordid Intereſts they are forced to eſpouſe; and by what inſenſible Degrees they are brought at laſt to follow thoſe Actions and Compliances, without Reluctancy, which at firſt they look'd upon with Deteſtation.

WHAT long once was obſerv'd of *Sejanus*, holds true of many later *Tympanies of Grandeur*; That their Favour is not to be purchas'd without ſome notable Crime: You muſt part with your Honour, nay, your Soul, if you expect Promotion from ſuch Spirits. If this were ſufficiently weighed, we may juſtly preſume, that ſuch as have a ſtrict Regard to Honeſty, wou'd not precipitate themſelves into Publick Affairs, and ſtand gaping, like greedy Camelions, to be puff'd up with the tainted Air of Haughty and Luxurious Courts, where Intereſt can ſcarcely be preſerv'd (unleſs by Miracle) without a Shipwreck of Conſcience.

BUT to make our Approaches a little nearer; If it be ſo tickliſh a Thing, for even a good Man to abide long in Honour, without becoming like the Beaſt that periſheth, and acting Diſhonourable Things; What then ſhall we ſay of thoſe Portentous Meteors, which ſometimes blaze in that Superior Orb, and, like noxious Exhalations drawn up by the Wanton Beams of Favour from the Slime and Filth of the World, preſage more Calamities than a Comet to thoſe Nations in which they appear?

INSOLENT Giants! That combat, with diſplay'd Colours, the Authority of Fundamental Laws, and all Methods of Juſtice! Who, in the Government of a State, produce Deſigns form'd for its Ruin, and fatten upon the Vitals of exhauſted Provinces!

PRINCES and Great Men are born oft-times with excellent Qualities, and are, like Calm and Halcyon Seas, fill'd with Riches and Power, that might do good to all the World, if the Winds would but let them flow gently according to their own Nature. But, as extraordinary Beauties are courted by Variety of Lovers, ſo ſuch exalted Conditions rarely want a Swarm of Flatterers, (mere Inſects! bred out of Putrefaction by the Warmth of Royal Sun-ſhine!) that, under the Umbrage of Adorers, make themſelves Maſters, and, by a Colour of true Service, exerciſe an Empire even over thoſe that think they command the Univerſe; whoſe ſacred Names in ſuch a Caſe, become but a Paſſport to Miſchiefs; and their Authority a Sanctuary to Crimes; nay, their Revenues and Incomes, are but Tinder to Debauchery, and Supplies to Riot; their Power an Inſtrument of Revenge, and a Scourge and Terror to thoſe very People whom it ought to cheriſh and protect.

WHAT ſhall we ſay of thoſe inſufferable Grandees, who wreak their private Spleens, with the Hands and Arms of their Maſters? Who eſteem Criminal all thoſe that do not fall proſtrate before them? Who, by abandoning the True Intereſt of their Country, and playing the Mountebank with the Body Politick (till they caſt it at once either into a Fever,

or

or a Conſumption) would gladly precipitate the honeſter ſort of Men into the moſt deſperate Meaſures, that ſo they may the better palliate their own Exorbitancies by the forc'd Diſobedience of others?

IN a Word, Tho' wiſe Antiquity allow'd no Entrance into the Temple of *Honour*, but thro' that of *Virtue*, yet ſuch as theſe croud themſelves into Favour and Credit by quite contrary Recommendations and Purſuits, and make their Vices the only Rondels, whereby they mount the Ladder of towring Preferment.

*I am, SIR,*

*Yours, &c.*

Z. Y.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXVIII.

*Ille autem adverſario remoto, licentius eorum bona, quos ſciebat adverſus ſe ſenſiſſe, militibus diſpertivit. Quibus diviſis, cum quotidiani maximi fierent ſumtus, celeriter pecunia deeſſe cœpit; neque quo manus porrigeret, ſuppetebat, niſi in amicorum poſſeſſiones. Id ejuſmodi erat, ut, cum milites reconciliaſſet, amitteret optimates.* Corn. Nep. Dion.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6. 1723.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

THE Two great Eſſentials requiſite for the well-ordering of Society, are, To be allowed the full Extent of our *Liberties*, and, To be protected in our reſpective *Properties*.

AS for *Liberty*, it cannot be bought at too great a Rate; Life itſelf is well imployed, when 'tis hazarded for *Liberty*; nor can any Thing be too Dear

Dear when *Freedom* is the Purchaſe. Theſe were evidently the Sentiments of the admired *Romans*; and that nothing was more valued than Freedom by this great People, is manifeſt from this; That tho' their Laws permitted Parents to take away their Childrens *Lives*, yet would they not ſuffer them to do any Act whereby thoſe Children might be deprived of their *Liberty*. *Libertati à majoribus tantum impenſum eſt*, ſays one, *ut patribus, quibus jus vitæ in liberos, neciſque poteſtas olim erat permiſſa, libertatem eripere non liceret.*

AS for *Property*, it is ſo interwoven with *Liberty*, that whenever we perceive the latter weakened, the former cannot fail of being impaired.

THOSE Nations who formerly either laviſh'd away their *Liberties* through their own Folly, or that loſt them through the Treachery of others, ſoon found their *Properties* as precarious in the Hands of Sycophants, as their *Liberties* were deſperate in the Hands of Tyrants.

'TIS no eaſy Matter to perſuade the Multitude their *Liberties* are in Danger, when their *Properties* are ſecured; but whenever they have been ſhewn, That their *Properties* have been not only render'd precarious, but even ſubject to the Caprice or Freak of every Narrow-Soul Dependant, it is impoſſible but Uneaſineſs and Heart-burnings ſhould then enſue.

IT is owing to the ſingular Mercy of Almighty God, that amidſt the Rage of Parties, and the various Re-

Revolutions in the Miniſtries of our late Princes, when each Party, as they have gained the Aſcendant, have oppreſſed the other; that, I ſay, in all thoſe Shocks, our Conſtitution and Liberties have been hitherto ſo well preſerved: But ſtill it muſt be confeſs'd, that, next to that good Providence, we have been more obliged to the Excellency and Moderation of our Two laſt Princes, than to any Forecaſt or Publick Spirit of our Com-patriots. For whoever conſiders the Violence of Party-Rage, and the many Tryals and Attainders that have been proſecuted with the moſt partial Fury, by Whigs and Tories againſt each other in their Turns, muſt needs find Reaſon to applaud our late Sovereigns, for having leſs at Heart the Aggrandizing their own Power, than preſerving the Liberties of their Subjects; or it would have been no difficult Task, to have play'd one Party againſt the other, 'till the Conſtitution had been intirely deſtroy'd.

WE are at preſent equally ſecure in our Liberties and Properties; no pretended Power is ſet up, no Incroachments are made on our Conſtitution. We enjoy our Parliaments in Freedom: Parliaments whoſe Power is as extenſive as we can wiſh; Our Properties are all guided by the ſtricteſt Rules of our Laws; and we can meaſure more Happineſs with our Eye, than any other Nation can form a View of in the greateſt Extent of their Fancy.

BUT notwithſtanding this Happy Situation and Proſpect, if we *Engliſhmen* do but look into Hiſtory, we ſhall there find abundant Reaſon to confirm the Truth of the above Obſervation, and that our Party-Tryals

Tryals have generally been too fatal Examples of Rage, Cruelty, and Partiality: And if ever we ſhould have the Misfortune, in ſome future Time, to fall into violent Hands, we ſhall, perhaps, have Cauſe to regret ſome certain Precedents, and ſhall find, that every other Law, either in a Civil or Criminal Caſe, will be interpreted according to their Intention, and even ſtrained beyond their natural Import, to anſwer the Views of deſigning Men.

FOR if ever Litigants ſhould gain their Points according to what Intereſt is made to Great Men, and that the bare Mention of one of the Parties to the Suit's being averſe to People in Power, be enough to obtain a Cauſe, it muſt certainly be attended with bad Conſequences for the preſent; but with Regard to Futurity, muſt furniſh Examples of the moſt pernicious and fatal Tendency. Indeed, were People to be told, *They muſt obey*, each Party, in its Turn, would know what to truſt to; But if ever Injuſtice ſhould put on the Dreſs of Probity, the poor People would be taught to pay Reſpect to the Shadow, and neglect the Subſtance. How happy are we, when we can really ſay, at preſent, we are Strangers to all this! And 'tis hop'd the ſame Happineſs will be tranſmitted to late Poſterity.

SOME People have imagined from the vaſt Tyde of Buſineſs that flows daily into the Chancery, that the *Meum* and *Tuum* of the Nation may be ſafely intruſted to the arbitrary Determination of one Man. And this immediately directs us to admire that *conſummate* and *ſuperior Genius*, that *invincible Force* of *Reaſon*, that *ſteady Impartiality* and *incomparable Sweetneſs* of *Temper*, which are the *proper* Cha-

racteriſticks of the Noble Lord who preſides in that High Court.

SO conſpicuous in all his Actions are the *Juſtice* and *Publick Spirit* of this Great Miniſter, that it wou'd be an Injury to compare with him any of the very Great Men who have adorn'd that high Station before him. Nor do I know of any one in paſt Ages, except it be *Florentius* the *Præfect* of the *Eaſt*, and *Exconſul* of the Emperor *Theodoſius* II. A. D. 439, who, after innumerable Services to his Sovereign and his Country, in adviſing and procuring many juſt and wiſe Laws to be enacted, Generouſly Devoted Part of his own Fortune to ſupply the Loſs the Publick Treaſury would ſuſtain by the Abolition of an Infamous Tax. Whereby he gain'd the following Memorable Teſtimony from his Auguſt Maſter, in an Edict on that Occaſion directed to his *Præfectus Prætorio*. — A Teſtimony ſo Glorious and Honourable, as can be only parallell'd in the *Preambles* of ſome of the *Letters Patents* of *Modern Times!*

'LET Hiſtory, ſaith that Prince, deſerve (or 'obtain) Belief from preſent Examples, and let 'Antiquity be freed from all Ambiguity, when it tells 'us of Great Men who prefer the Commonwealth 'before their own Eſtates. We may behold the il-'luſtrious *Florentius*, who, ſupported by the Admi-'niſtration of the *Prætorian Præfectſhip*, by the 'Emulous Virtue of an excellent Mind, ſtrives, not 'only with the Merits of our Anceſtors, but with his 'own Great Deſerts towards the Commonwealth; 'the Reputation whereof he hath vindicated, not 'only by his Council and Prudence, but alſo by his 'De-

'Devotion and Munificence, from the Blot and In-
'famy of ſhameful Turpitude. For, obſerving how
'by the Damnable Craftineſs of *Pandors*, the Inad-
'vertency of the Ancients was circumvented, under
'pretence of a certain Luſtral Preſtation, it being
'lawful to exerciſe a Commerce of *corrupting of*
'*Chaſtity*, out of a pious Inclination of Propagating
'an univerſal Modeſty, he ſuggeſted to us, That it
'was one part of the Injury of the preſent Times,
'that *Pandors* were permitted to be in the City, and
'that the Treaſury was furniſhed by their filthy
'Traffick. And, tho' he knew that we abominated
'it, and had no reſpect to the Tribute; yet, leſt
'any Damage ſhou'd come to our *Ærarium*, he
'offered us ſo much of his own Eſtate, as, out of the
'Revenues of which, as much Profit would ariſe, as
'was wont from that wretched ſort of Trade. Where-
'fore, willingly embracing his Forecaſt and Munifi-
'cence, by this laſting Law, we Ordain, *&c.*

Dr. *HOWELL*, from whoſe *Hiſtory of the World* I have taken this Paſſage, makes alſo mention of a Practice uſed by the Great Men in thoſe Times, of intruding themſelves into Governments and Places of Honour and Truſt, by indirect Methods: To prevent which, a Solemn Oath was injoyned, by the Advice of the ſame Great Man, which I cannot help tranſcribing in the very Words of the Edict, and with my Author's Introduction: And the rather, becauſe 'tis the *only Oath* that I think can be ſaid to be wanting in this *Swearing Age*.

'NOTWITHSTANDING all Care that had
'been taken, yet ſome Perſons crept indirectly into

' the Government of Provinces; of which *Theodosius*
' having Notice, probably from *Florentius* himself,
' at the latter end of *November* he sent him an ex-
' press Order, by way of Rescript or Edict, " That
" no Persons shou'd be admitted to such Govern-
" ments, as thought to attain them by *Ambition* or
" *Reward*, but were promoted thereto by the Testi-
" mony of an *approv'd Life*, or of him the *Prefect*.
" And with this Circumstance, That such as shou'd
" be advanc'd to those Honours by the Choice of his
" *Seat*, or the *Emperor* himself, should Swear pub-
" lickly, *That neither they, nor any for them, had*
" *given any thing for obtaining these Governments, nor*
" *would give for the Time to come, thereby breaking*
" *both the Law and their Oath: No, not by any Title*
" *of Sale or Donation, or any other Colour or Pretence*
" *of any Contract whatsoever: And that for and by*
" *reason of such Employments gratuitously received,*
" *their Salaries or Allowances only excepted, they shall*
" *receive nothing for any Favour done in the Time of*
" *their Governments, either while in Power, or when*
" *returned to a Private Life*: And altho' (he adds)
" he supposes no Man so devoid of the Fear of God,
" as by contemning an Oath, to prefer any Worldly
" Advantages before his own Salvation; yet, that
" Necessity of Danger may be subjoined to the Fear
" of Salvation, if any shou'd dare to violate his Oath,
" he grants free Liberty of accusing both Giver and
" Receiver, as of a Publick Crime.

## *To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*Dear SIR,*

A Current Report has been propagated at all the Tea-Tables in Town, that you intend to Print the *Ten Commandments* and the *Lord's Prayer*, in your *True Briton*, for the Information and Edification of certain People, who are ſuppoſed never to have heard of ſuch things. Now, Sir, I, in the Name of many of your Female Admirers, earneſtly beg of you, as you would avoid utter Demolition, to deſiſt from ſuch a bold Enterprize, 'till you have conſulted the ſeveral Orders of Men in this Kingdom, whether the Times will bear ſo Critical a Publication. For you muſt needs know, by the woful Experience of your Printer, what Miſconſtructions every thing is liable to that that you publiſh, ſince whatever would be ſtyl'd a Panegyrick in other Papers, has been generally deemed a Reflection in yours. And beſides, the very inſerting of 'em in the *True Briton*, will be ſufficient to make all the *Modern Whigs* in the Kingdom expunge them from their Bibles, and remove them as far from their *Sight*, as they have long been from their *Hearts* and *Practices*.

*Your Zealous Admirer,*

Athaliah Dormant.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXIX.

——— *Quo tibi, Tulli,*
*Sumere depoſitum clavum, fierique Tribuno?*
*Invidia accrevit, privato quæ minor eſſet.* HOR.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9. 1723.

## *To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

FINDING that in your laſt Paper, you have mentioned ſome Paſſages taken from Dr. *Howell's Hiſtory of the World*, I thought it might not be amiſs to ſend you the following Tranſcripts from the ſame Writer. As no Study is ſo uſeful to Mankind as *Hiſtory*, where, as in a Glaſs, Men may ſee the Virtues and Vices of Great Perſons in former Ages, and be taught to purſue the one, and avoid the other, I cannot think the following will be an unacceptable Entertainment for one of your Papers. I have fingled out the Reigns of *Arcadius* and *Honorius*,

*rius*, the Sons of *Theodoſius* the Great, becauſe as they both began their Reigns in their Minority, in which Evil Miniſters and Oppreſſors generally ſwarm, ſo I believe no equal Space of Time can produce ſuch a continued Succeſſion of Miſcreants and Traytors, who, like the *Hydra*'s Heads, as faſt as one was lopped off, ſprang up from the Ruins of the former.

IT muſt needs be Matter of great Surprize, and a Proof of the Degeneracy of thoſe Times, That although Divine Juſtice never failed to overtake and exemplarily puniſh the Avarice and Ambition of thoſe wicked Miniſters, yet the Ignominy and Ruin of the One, were not ſufficient to deter his immediate Succeſſors in Power from purſuing the ſame deſtructive Meaſures, and treading in the like Steps, 'till Deſtruction, like a Deluge, likewiſe overwhelmed them, and they were made Sacrifices to atone for the Miſchiefs done to an injur'd People.

AS no Application can poſſibly be made to our preſent Happy Times; ſo I ſhall take eſpecial Care, in whatſoever I ſhall tranſmit to you, not to contribute to the Haraſſes of your Printer.

'IT was the Misfortune of *Theodoſius* (ſays Dr. 'Howell, p. 448.) to be deceived in Men toward 'his *latter End*; though as to thoſe that ſerved him 'at his *firſt Entrance*, *Pacatus* magnifies both his 'Fortune and his Choice. And the great Miſchief 'was, that it happened towards his latter End; for he 'might, had he lived, have diſcovered and removed 'thoſe Perſons, who being intruſted by him with the 'Management of the Affairs of his Sons, gave Be-

ginning to thoſe Miſeries which afterwards fell upon the Empire.

P. 473. 'TO *Arcadius* he aſſigned the *Eaſt*, and 'to *Honorius* the *Weſtern* Parts; and 'till they ſhould 'come to Maturity, he appointed *Ruſinus* Chief Ge- 'vernour or Aſſiſtant to the former, and to the latter '*Stilicho*. Theſe Men having ſuch great Advantages, 'and puffed up, and imboldened therewith, when 'the Empire by Reaſon of the *Barbarians* which 'hover'd upon it, was in ſo tickliſh a Condition, that 'it required their Care and Diligence to ſecure it, 'thruſt it on, and plung'd it, through their Ambition, 'into greater Inconveniencies, and ſuch as it could 'never recover itſelf out of them; for they took Ad- 'vantage of the Youth and Imbecility of their Maſters, 'and omitted no ſort of Villainy to advance them- 'ſelves into their Rooms. They now determined all 'Suits and Controverſies with great Licentiouſneſs; 'and he went away with the Cauſe who could give 'moſt Money, or by ſome Relation to the Judge, or 'Indearment with him, could draw him to his Party. 'Now Lands and Eſtates, of which the Owners were 'thought happily ſeized, were made over and appro- 'priated to them two: Some by ſuch Means bribing 'them, and thereby evading their Calumnies, with 'which elſe they would be over-power'd; and others 'freely parting with them thereby to purchaſe Offi- 'ces and other Advantages, whereby the Cities were 'oppreſſed. The Provinces being thus haraſs'd on 'every ſide, all the Wealth flowed into their Coffers; 'and in every Place, Poverty raged, where lately 'had been abundance of all Things.

MY Author informs us, That after having vaſtly inriched themſelves by ſuch Methods as theſe, their Pride and Arrogance grew to ſo great a Height, that they meditated no leſs than to obtain the Purple for themſelves; And to pave their Way to Empire, endeavour'd each to exalt his Daughter to the Imperial Bed. In this *Stilicho* ſucceeded, and, in all Probability, *Rufinus* had effected the ſame, had he not been circumvented by the Intrigues of the Eunuch *Eutropius*, who found Means to perſuade the Emperor to marry another Lady.

*RUFINUS*, notwithſtanding this Diſappointment, reſolving to attempt the Imperial Dignity, to bring about his ambitious Purpoſes, fill'd all Places with his Creatures; and, in order to weaken his Maſter's Forces and Power, prevailed upon *Alarick* the turbulent *Goth*, to invade *Greece*; who accordingly taking up Arms, deſtroy'd whole Provinces with Fire and Sword, and meeting with no Reſiſtance from the Governors who had been raiſed by *Rufinus*, ſtruck a Terror to the very Gates of *Conſtantinople*. And to ſo great a Degree of Inſolence was *Rufinus* arrived, that when *Stilicho* with an Army was come to the Relief of *Arcadius*, he by Menaces and Force, extorted from the Emperor a Command for his Corrival to quit the Eaſtern Dominions.

AT length the Time came, that he was to reap the Reward of all his Villainies; for *Stilicho* having pretended to diſmiſs the Eaſtern Troops, that were in his Army, gave private Directions to *Gaines* their General, to deſtroy this common Enemy; who in Order

Order thereunto, bent their March to *Conſtantinople*, pretending to take Part with *Ruſinus*: Who, accompanied by the Emperor, went out to meet them, and congratulated their Return to their own Country: And now believing himſelf ſecure of Dominion and Empire, he had the Boldneſs before the Soldiery, ‘ to pluck the Emperor by the Robe, complaining ‘ and chiding, that he did not aſcend the Tribunal, ‘ and declare him his Partner in the Sovereignty. ‘ With that (to uſe the Words of the Hiſtorian) they ‘ all drew their Swords, and in a confuſed Noiſe, ‘ demanded of him, *If he imagined to make them* ‘ *Slaves, who had given Laws to ſome, reſtored others* ‘ *to Liberty, had twice put an End to Civil Broils,* ‘ *and broken through the* Alps *themſelves*; And they ‘ told him plainly, *That by ſo many Wars, they were* ‘ *ſufficiently taught not to ſerve a Tyrant.* Being now ‘ intrapped as ſome wild Beaſt in the Theatre, one ‘ from amongſt the Crowd, runs out upon him, and ‘ giving him a Blow, tells him, That it was *Stilicho* ‘ who ſtruck him by *that* Hand. This Blow was ‘ followed with innumerable others; happy being he ‘ which could get a Stroke, or have any Limb or ‘ Member of him; which they carried aloft, as in ‘ ſome ſolemn Triumph, eſpecially his Head. And ‘ ſuch as bore his Hands, begged ſomething to be be- ‘ ſtowed on them, and moved his Fingers (in Deri- ‘ ſion) ſo far as to receive it; while in the mean Time ‘ the Multitude from the City glutted their Eyes in ‘ his Blood; and ſuch as had loſt their Relations by ‘ his Procurement, rejoiced to ſee him brought to the ‘ ſame, or had it been a more ignoble End. Here- ‘ upon the Poet (*Claudian*, from whom my Author ‘ takes this Account, confirmed by other Authentick

‘ Hiſto-

'Hiſtorians) takes Occaſion very fitly to admoniſh 'all Perſons in Proſperity not to truſt to Fortune, 'which ſeems at preſent to ſmile upon them, ſeeing 'that all Things in this World are utterly ſlippery 'and inconſtant: For that Hand which now addreſ- 'ſed itſelf to bear a Sceptre, which had been ſo often 'kiſſed by the *ſuppliant Nobility*; being torn from 'the Carcaſe, and both remaining unburied, after 'Death itſelf now went a ſad Way of Begging. Let 'him that carries his *Head ſo High* in his *proſperous* '*Eſtate*, caſt an Eye toward it, which formerly ſo 'great and powerful, was now thrown in the Streets 'to be trod on by any Man. He who built Pyramids, 'and provided a Monument for his Sepulture which 'equalled Temples, who thought of nothing but be- 'ing cloathed in Purple, now became naked, as he 'was, and a Prey to the Fowls of the Air. He who 'had, in his Thoughts, poſſeſſed himſelf of the 'World, now lay wanting a little Earth, was buried 'by Parcels with a thin Mold, and was often buried, 'and yet no where. —— Thus periſhed *Ruſinus*, as 'he had juſtly deſerved, who had both been the 'Author of inſufferable Miſchiefs to Private Perſons, 'and of great Calamities to the Publick State.

BUT though the Eaſtern Empire was thus delivered from the Attempts of this Miſcreant, his Fall was not ſufficient to deter others from purſuing his Steps. That ſame *Eutropius* the Eunuch, who had been ſo inſtrumental in the Deſtruction of *Ruſinus*, now having found Means to procure the greateſt Part of his confiſcated Eſtate, began to ſet up for himſelf, in ſuch Manner, as, if poſſible, to ſurpaſs the Villainies of the former. And fearing that *Timaſius*, who for many

many Years had worthily ſuſtain'd the Dignity of *Magiſter Militum*, and faithfully ſerved in many Wars, would ſtand in his Way, he procured one *Bargus*, a notorious Villain, and whom from a *Seller of Puddings* and ſuch like Stuff, *Timaſius* for his Buffoonry and Facetious Humour, had preferred to the Command of a Cohort, by counterfeit Writings to accuſe his Benefactor of affecting the Sovereignty; and ſo got him baniſhed into *Oaſis*, " a barren Place " in *Ægypt*, out of which there could be no Eſcape " ſo great and ſandy a Deſart did incompaſs it, in " which was neither Tree nor Houſe; nor Way to " be ſeen, which the Winds conſtantly filled up with " Sand;" nor was he nor his Son ever heard of more, being, in all likelihood, made away by the Contrivances of the Villainous Eunuch, who ſoon after laid hold of a Pretence to deſtroy *Bargus* alſo, by the Accuſations of his own Wife, and ſo prevented his telling Tales.

'*EUTROPIUS* now drunk with Power, ſays 'my Author, and in his Imagination lifted up above 'the Clouds, had in all Countries his Spies to pry 'curiouſly into all Matters, and into the Eſtate of 'every Perſon eſpecially; and every Way he made 'his own Markets, and inrich'd himſelf. His Co'vetouſneſs and Envy ſetting him againſt every one 'that was conſiderable in Place, provok'd him alſo 'againſt *Abundantius*, who had long ſerved in the 'Wars, and born the greateſt Dignities, as thoſe of '*Prætor* and *Conſul*, and who was his firſt Promoter 'and Patron. Him he procured the Emperor to de'prive of all his Honours and Eſtate, and he was 'commanded to keep himſelf at *Sidon*, where he

'ſpent

'ſpent the Remainder of his Days. And now having 'none at *Conſtantinople* of whom he could be jealous, 'he fixed his Thoughts on *Stilicho*, and to prevent 'Diſturbance from him, he perſuaded *Arcadius* to 'call the Senate, and to declare him an Enemy to 'the Empire by Publick Decree;' And ſtill farther to ſecure himſelf againſt *Stilicho*, and to cut him out Work nearer home, he procured *Gildo* Governor of *Africk* for the Emperor *Honorius*, to revolt to *Arcadius*; who afterwards ſet up for himſelf, and became another Tyrant in an Age ſo fruitful of Villains.

*EUTROPIUS* went on 'to turn Men out of 'their Juſt Poſſeſſions, imploying Promoters and In-'formers in every Place, diſcarding all faithful and 'honeſt Officers, and promoting moſt abject and un-'fit Perſons to Imployments, even *Barbarians* as well 'as others, if they brought but Money, which cauſed 'the utmoſt Diſcontents among the People, and even 'the Biſhops openly complained, ſaith my Author, 'P. 497; among whom *John Chryſoſtome*, fared '*much the worſe for his liberal Speech*: So that at 'laſt, out of Publick Odium, Factions, Aſſociati-'ons or Conſpiracies ſprang up againſt *Eutropius* and 'his Creatures; at which being alarmed, he procured 'ſo ſevere a Law againſt ſuch as ſhould deviſe the 'Death of Counſellors, as the like is not to be found 'in all the *Roman* Monuments;' Which my Author gives at large in P. 497, of his Hiſtory, and to which I refer.

'*STILICHO* having marry'd his Daughter to '*Honorius*, believed himſelf immoveably fix'd, and '*Eutropius* leading and Governing *Arcadius* no other-'wiſe

'wiſe than like ſome ſilly Sheep, if there were any 'Noble or Pleaſant Seat in any Country, it was made 'over to one of them two, or if any Gold or Silver, it 'flew from the right Owners into their Coffers, there 'being a great Number of Informers imployed, who 'had in Charge to calumniate ever ſuch kind of 'Men.' This animated againſt *Eutropius*, that very *Gaines*, who, at the Head of the Eaſtern Troops, had deſtroy'd *Ruſinus*, and who, as the Event proved, was more concern'd to be excluded from a Share of the Power and Plunder, than deſirous to free the Country from ſuch a Monſter. *Gaines* ſtirr'd up *Tribigild*, a Barbarian Commander, who, by his Connivance, laid deſolate whole Provinces, ſparing neither Age nor Sex. *Eutropius* mean time, ſetting no Bounds to his Ambition, procured himſelf to be created Conſul, 'to 'the Violation of the *Curule Chair*, to the Pollution 'of the *Regiſters*, and the Shame of the Empire;' and arrived at that prodigious Inſolence, as to threaten, upon ſome Diſguſt he took at the Empreſs, to ſend her home, and baniſh her the Imperial Bed and Palace. *Tribigild* by this Time was grown ſo formidable by the Contrivance of *Gaines*, as to preſcribe Terms to the Emperor, inſiſting to have *Eutropius* delivered up to him, which the Emperor finding himſelf obliged to comply with, the inſolent Eunuch was immediately ſtript of all his Power and Dignity, and he, whoſe Ambition half the World could not contain, found himſelf deſtitute in one Moment, of Friends or Safeguard, and fled to the Altar which he had ſo often profan'd, for Sanctuary; and could only be reſpited from the Rage of the unruly Multitude, who would have torn him in Pieces, by the Eloquence of that very Biſhop *(Chryſoſtome)* whom he had treated ill for admo-

admoniſhing him to Moderation in his Proſperity. Being baniſh'd to the Iſland of *Cyprus*, he was ſoon after Try'd before the *Præfect*; a deſerved Death was inflicted upon him, and all his immenſe Wealth confiſcated.

*GILDO*, who at the Inſtigation of *Eutropius* had revolted from *Honorius*, and afterwards aſſumed to himſelf the Imperial Purple, was at length ſubdu'd and deſtroy'd by his own Brother. And now *Gaines*, who had openly joined with *Tribigild*, and laid deſolate all Places where-ever he came, ſet himſelf in the Place of *Rufinus* and *Eutropius*, and out of their Ruins, commenced as great a Monſter. Marching hoſtilely towards *Conſtantinople*, he inſolently inſiſted to treat Perſonally with the Emperor, refuſing to confer with any Body elſe; and when *Arcadius*, being compelled, conſented thereto, he demanded the moſt Eminent Miniſters of State to be delivered into his Hands, whom he drove into Baniſhment; and then pretending to be ſatisfy'd, and to depart, he plotted privately to make himſelf Maſter of *Conſtantinople*; in which being diſappointed, he declared open War; and after the moſt cruel Maſſacres and Devaſtations, at length being beaten in a Sea fight, retired with the broken Remains of his Army to the *Iſter*, and was there attack'd by *Uldes* Prince of the *Huns*, who, after an obſtinate Fight, gaining the Victory, and ſlaying the Traytor, ſent his Head a Preſent to the Emperor *Arcadius*.

BY a Succeſſion of theſe Harpies, and the Weakneſs of the Emperor *Arcadius*, was the Eaſtern Empire reduced to a very low Ebb, and Encouragement given

to

to the Invaſions of the Barbarous Nations, who afterwards, like an Inundation, overwhelm'd the *Roman* Empire. *Stilicho* and his Tranſactions, may, perhaps, be the Subject of another Letter, (if this meets with your Approbation): And I ſhall conclude with tranſcribing the Words of the Edict of the Emperor *Arcadius*, on the Depoſing and Baniſhing *Eutropius*; Which ſets forth, in lively Colours, as well the Villainy of that Favourite, as it is alſo a ſort of Acknowledgment to Poſterity of the Weakneſs of the Emperor (*ex Ore ſuo*) for promoting and ſo long protecting ſo vile a Miſcreant.

IN this Edict, ſays my Author, *Arcadius* ſignifies to *Aurelianus* the *Præfect*, 'That he had confiſcated 'all the Eſtate of *Eutropius*, who was of late the '*Propoſitus Sacri Cubiculi*; the *Conſulſhip* and the 'Splendor thereof being vindicated from *naſty Filth*, 'from the Commemoration of his Name, and the '*Dirtineſs* of it; ſo that all his Acts being reſcinded, 'all Times to come may be ſilent concerning him; 'and that, ſaith he, the *Blot* and *Blemiſh* of our *preſent Age* may not appear. Neither let *him* mourn, 'who by his Valour or his Wounds, propagates the '*Roman* Borders, or defends them by the Equity of 'Law, that the *Divine Reward* of the *Conſulſhip*, 'hath been *defiled* by the *Contagion* of a *dirty Prodigy*. 'Let *Eutropius* know alſo, That he is ſpoiled of the 'Dignity of *Patrician*, and all other inferior Honours, 'which he hath polluted by the Wickedneſs of his 'Manners. We command, That all Statues, Images, 'as well of Braſs as Marble, as well painted as 'wrought out of any ſubſtantial Matter, be utterly 'defaced, aboliſhed, and removed out of all Cities, 'both

both private and common, leſt the *Eyes of any be polluted* by ſuch a Mark of *this our Age*. And let him, with a ſufficient Guard, be carried into the Iſland of *Cyprus*; to which your Highneſs may take Notice he is baniſhed; that being there carefully watched and kept cloſe, he may not, by his *Madneſs*, confound all things.

*I am, SIR,*

*Your Conſtant Admirer,*

PHILOBRITON.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXX.

*Quiſnam igitur liber? ſapiens, ſibi qui imperioſus:*
*Quem neq; pauperies, neq; mors, neq; vincula terrent:*
*Reſponſare cupidinibus, contemnere honores*
*Fortis, &c.* HOR.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBR 13. 1723.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

WHEN a Man has an Ambition to entertain the Publick, he generally endeavours to pick out a freſh Subject, that has not been defiled by the Pen of the Scribler: This, indeed, is no eaſy Matter in this *Nation* of Writers; But I think I have hit upon one; for HONESTY is my Theme. I believe I ought, in Imitation of Philoſophers, when they make uſe of an uncommon Term of Art, to define the Meaning of it; but I am pretty ſure, that the TRUE BRITON and his Admirers are not wholly unacquainted with it.

I DARE

I DARE own, That I have a ſtrong Deſire to bring this *antiquated* Virtue into Repute again; but I am ſenſible of the Extravagance of the Project, and the innumerable Difficulties that are to be ſurmounted in the Execution of it: I might as eaſily undertake to bring the *Ruffs* and *Pantofles* of our Forefathers into Faſhion. All, therefore, that can now be done, is, To celebrate its ancient proſperous State, and to lament its preſent Decay.

THERE are Virtues and Vices which are peculiar to each Conſtitution of Men, to the different Period of their Lives, to their various Educations and Profeſſions, and to particular Families and Societies. Beſides this, every Nation is diſtinguiſhed after the ſame Manner: Whether it proceeds from the Climate, or the Temper of the firſt Inhabitant tranſmitted to his Poſterity, is not my Buſineſs to inquire; the Matter of Fact every Man of Obſervation will allow. I paſs over an Hundred Inſtances that might be produced to take Notice, that *Honeſty* was eminently the Virtue of *Britons*. Of this the moſt antient Writers that give any Account of us, make Mention: This our Enemies, and thoſe that deſpiſed us, have recorded of us. They were, perhaps, the more willing to grant it *us*, becauſe it was a Virtue in no great Eſteem with *them*. But, in reality, it was a glorious Diſtinction, ſufficient to atone for the Want of *Opulence*, *Delicacy*, and *Thirſt of Empire*, the Modern Aim of Nations. Long time it flouriſh'd here, and bravely ſtruggled againſt the Incroachments that were made upon it: But many Years ago, an Inundation of *Foreigners* overwhelmed it, and inſtead thereof,

brought in *Diſſimulation* and *Politeneſs*. It is with Pleaſure I ſee theſe Qualifications, that have uſurped its Place, ſit ſo *aukwardly* upon us; whence we may entertain *diſtant* Hopes, that *Honeſty* will, in Time, reſume its Dominion.

THE Preſent State of it is indeed very deplorable. It is neglected and ridiculed: It is forced either to diſappear, or to put on a Maſque. It is intirely out of the Mode: This we may learn from *Modern Dedications*, which, though they do not give us the leaſt Inſight into the *Virtues* of the Perſon they are aſcribed to, yet acquaint us with what are in *Vogue*; and I defy any one to ſhew me a Dedication wrote for ſeveral Years paſt, whether it be to a Miniſter of State, a Judge, or a Biſhop, where *Honeſty* is not excluded the Lump, by their flattering *Panegyriſts*.

THE *French*, who perhaps, are as great Strangers to the Thing as Ourſelves, have yet had the Complaiſance to keep up the Name, though in a different Senſe; for by *Un Honete Homme*, they expreſs no more than a *Well-bred Man*; which, in my Opinion, is very wide of the Antient Meaning of it, if not directly contrary to it.

WHEN the Name of *Honeſty* was diſcarded our Faſhionable World, another Word ſtarted up in its Room, tho' nothing like it in Signification: This is *Honour*, a Term of ſo great a Latitude, that it ſeems to include every thing but *Honeſty*. Accordingly the Phraſe *Upon my Honour*, frequently ſignifies, in ſome Countries beyond Sea, Upon my P——n, or my W. S. or my Hopes of Preferment or, in the beſt

Ac-

Acceptation, Upon my *Principles* or *Obſtinacy*. *Honeſty* was the Tendereſt Thing in Nature; the leaſt Deviation, or falſe Step, caſt a Blemiſh on it: *Honour* is invulnerable, will comply with any thing, is, at leaſt, as eaſy in Conſort with Vice as with Virtue; it has only one Incumbrance upon it, The Obligation to accept a Challenge in *any* Caſe, and in *many* Caſes to offer it; but even in this Pinch I have known a *good Jeſt* bring it off very ſucceſsfully. *Honeſty* is ſeated in the Soul, and diſcovers itſelf only by a regular Courſe of laudable Actions: *Honour* is wholly external, continually talking of itſelf, is uneaſy when it is not taken Notice of, and, in Solitude, ſeems to loſe its Being. *Honour* is a Courtier in any Reign, or any Miniſtry. *Honeſty* is often call'd Diſloyal or a Rebel. *Honeſty* is a Clean Vigorous Body in a *plain Cloth Suit*. *Honour* is a Rotten Carcaſe in *Brocade* and a *Gilded Chariot*.

THE *Honourable* Man is ſuſpicious, ſurrounded with Spies; gets out of Debt in proportion as his Country gets into it; Amaſſes as many *Plumbs* as he is Years in the Adminiſtration; mixes Publick Councils and Laws with Perſonal Pique and Reſentment; will be obſequious to a Cobler, that can Vote for him, and imperious to a Duke or an Archbiſhop, that he has an Influence over; is *Your moſt obedient humble Servant*, at the ſame time that he is undermining you in your Property or Life;

*Yet* Caſſius *is an Honourable* Man!

IN a Word, *Cato*, who was a Lover of his Country, and an Enemy to Tyranny, was an *Honeſt* Man; and *Sejanus* a Man of *Honour*: of whom *Tacitus* gives

this Character in the Beginning of his Fourth Book of *Annals*.

'*TIBERIUM variis artibus devinxit adeo, ut obſcurum adverſum alios, ſibi uni incautum intectumque efficeret: non tam ſollertiâ (quippe iiſdem artibus victus eſt) quam Deum irâ in Rem Romanam: Corpus illi laborum tolerans, animus audax: Sui obtegens, in alios criminator: juxta Adulatio & Superbia; palam compoſitus Pudor; intus ſumma apiſcendi libido: ejuſque cauſâ modo largitio & luxus, ſæpius induſtria ac vigilantia.*'

'WITH *Variety of Inſinuations he got the Aſcendant over* Tiberius *ſo far, that he made him Reſerved to others, but to himſelf Careleſs and Open. He did not riſe ſo much through Policy (for by that others overpowered him) as from the Wrath of the Gods againſt the* Roman *State. He had a ſtrong Body and a bold Mind. He diſſembled his own Faults, and impeached others: Flattery and Pride were united in him: By his outward Appearance one would think him Modeſt; but inwardly he had the moſt unſatisfied Thirſt after Riches, to which he ſometimes made Induſtry ſubſervient, and ſometimes Luxury and Bribery.*'

I HAVE quoted the Place to prevent Miſinterpretations; and I ſhould have tranſcribed the Original only, but I was unwilling to create too much Trouble to the *Honourable* Gentlemen, that are *obliged* to rail at you Weekly. *I am*,

*Your Humble Servant*,

A. Z.

THAT

THAT we may not appear ungrateful to the Gentlemen who have been so kind to transmit Letters to us, I shall take this Opportunity to acknowledge the Favour of the following.

THE Letter subscrib'd *Philo-Briton*, relating to the Affairs of *Sweden*, is come to Hand, and we shall take a proper Opportunity to give it a Place in the *True Briton*.

THE Author is much obliged to the Gentleman who dates from *Wales*, and stiles himself *Cambro-Britannus*, as well for the good Opinion he has of him, as for the Subject of his Letter; which he will insert in some future Paper, and desires the Continuance of his Correspondence.

THE Letter sign'd *Politicus* is also come to Hand; but we desire the Gentleman to excuse our not inserting it, the Subject having been treated on in some of our late Papers.

THE Letter sign'd *J. D. C.* recommending my Lord *Lucas*'s Speech, &c. shall be inserted in our next.

WE return Thanks to the Gentleman who sent the Verses upon *Bourgen*, *Poli*, &c. occasion'd by Sir *Richard Blackmore*'s *Panegyrick* on those *Admirable Persons*, in his ALFRED, and shall be glad the Author will transmit the Remainder of them.

THE Letter dated from *Lothbury*, and sign'd *Tribunus Populi*, relating to some late Elections in the

City, will be consider'd in proper Time; As will also the Quæries from *Carr's Pacquet*, relating to the Election of Sheriffs in 1682.

THE Gentleman who signs *N. O.* relating to the *Barbarity* and *Inconsistency* of some *Virulent Scriblers*, deserves our Acknowledgments for his good Intentions: But we are determin'd to despise the impotent Malice of these *Hireling Wretches*, on whom is fasten'd the Curse of a *barbarous Ingratitude*, in being obliged Weekly to rail at and calumniate the *Author* of their *Subsistance*, and even of their *very Being*, as *Scriblers*; and as their miserable Productions die away as soon as born, or in very few Hours, it would be *culpable* to take Notice of them, since it might thereby contribute to pester the World by giving a longer Life to such *stupid Malice* and *incorrigible Dulness*.

THE Lady who insists to have some *eminent Post* in the Government, now she has been obliged to take the *Oaths*, and promises, both for *herself* and *Sex*, to consent to be render'd for ever incapable of all Places of *Honour* and *Trust*, if they do not govern better than the Men, is inform'd hereby, that her Letter is come to Hand, and will meet with proper Regard in some future Paper.

THE *Latin Sapphic* Poem intitled *Episcopus Roffensis Exul*, as also the *Verses* from *N. B.* are likewise received.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXXI.

*Nullam tantam poteſtatem cuiquam dari poſſe, ut non ſit gratior poteſtate libertas.* Plin. in Panegyr.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16. 1723.

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

THE following Memorable Speech which was Spoke in the Houſe of Lords in King *Charles* the Second's Reign, when the King was preſent, by the Lord *Lucas*, upon a Subſidy-Bill of Twelve-pence in the Pound, being ſent to that Houſe from the Houſe of Commons, has in it ſo much of the Spirit, the Courage, and the Honeſty of a TRUE BRITON, that I am perſuaded you will think it very worthy of a Place in your Paper, which ſo deſervedly bears that Title. [See *Echard's Hiſtory of England*, P. 871. Edit. 3.]

*My*

*My LORDS,*

WHEN, by the Providence of Almighty God, the Nation recall'd His Majeſty to the Exerciſe of the Regal Power, it was the Hopes of all good Men, that we ſhould not only be reſtored to His Majeſty's *Royal Perſon*, and Divine Laws, but we ſhould be free from thoſe *heavy Burthens* under which we had lain ſo long oppreſs'd: We did believe, that from thenceforth every Man ſhould *ſit under his own Vine*, enjoying the Fruits of Peace and Plenty; and *Aſtrea* herſelf, long ſince for the Sins of Men fled up to Heaven, ſhould have been invited by His Majeſty's moſt Gracious and Happy Reign, to return hither, and dwell and converſe amongſt Mortals again. But, alas! we are fallen very ſhort of our Expectations, and our Burthens are ſo far from being made *lighter* to us, that they are *heavier* than ever they were; and as our *Burthens* are increas'd, ſo our *Strength* is alſo diminiſh'd, and we are leſs able to ſupport them. —— It is evident there is a great *Scarcity of Money* in the Nation; and yet if amidſt this *Scarcity*, the vaſt Sums given were all imploy'd for the King and Kingdom, it would not ſo much trouble us: But we cannot, without infinite Regret of Heart, ſee ſo great a Part of it pounded up in the Purſes of other *private Men*, and ſee them flouriſh in Eſtates, who, in the Time of His Majeſty's moſt *Happy Reſtauration*, were worth *very little* or *nothing*: and now theſe ſame *Men purchaſe Lands*, and keep their *Coach and Six Horſes*, their *Pages* and their *Lacqueys*; while in the mean Time thoſe that have faithfully ſerved the King, are expos'd to Penury and Want, and ſcarce ſufficient left to buy them Bread.

And

And is this, my Lords, the Reward of our Services? Have we for this born the Heat of the Day? been Impriſon'd, Sequeſtred, ventur'd our Lives and Families, our Eſtates and our Fortunes? And muſt we, after all this, ſacrifice ſo much of our *poor Remainder* to the Will of a *few particular Men*, and the Maintenance of their *Vanities*.

BUT ſuppoſe all the Money given were imploy'd for the Uſe of His Majeſty, and His Majeſty were not cozen'd, (as without Doubt he is) is there no Bounds to, or Moderation in giving? Will you ſay, That if we ſhall not plentifully ſupply his Majeſty, he will not be able to defend us, or to maintain the *Triple League*; and we ſhall thereby run the Hazard of being Conquer'd? 'Tis true, my Lords, that this may be a Reaſon for giving *ſomething*, but it is ſo far from being an Argument for giving *ſo much*, that it may clearly be made out to your Lordſhips, that it is the direct and ready Way to be conquer'd by a Foreigner. And it may be the Policy of the *French* King, by thoſe often Alarms of Armies and Fleets, to induce us to conſume our Treaſure in vain Preparations againſt him: And after he has by this Means, made us Poor and Weak enough, he may then come upon us, and deſtroy us. It is not the giving of a great deal, but the well managing the Money given, that muſt keep us ſafe from our Enemies. Your Lordſhips may be pleas'd to call to mind the Story of *Sampſon*, who while he preſerved his Hair wherein his Strength lay, was ſtill Victor over his Enemies; but when by the Inticement of his *Dalilah*, his Hair was cut off, the *Philiſtines* came upon him, and overcame him; And ſo, my Lords, if we ſhall preſerve and husband well our Trea-

Treaſure, wherein our Strength and Sinews of War lie, and apply it to the right Uſes, we ſhall ſtill be Superior to our Enemies; But if we ſhall vainly and imprudently miſpend it, we ſhall become an eaſy Prey to 'em. Beſides, my Lords, what is this but *Ne moriare mori*, and for fear of being conquer'd by a Foreigner, to put ourſelves in a Condition almoſt as bad? Pardon me, my Lords, if I ſay, in ſome reſpect a great deal worſe; For when we are under the Power of the Victor, we know we can fall no lower: And the Certainties of our Miſeries are ſome ſort of Diminution of them: But in this wild Way, we have no Certainty at all; for if you give thus much to Day, you may give as much To-Morrow, and never leave giving, 'till we have given all that ever we have away; and the Anxiety of Mind which ariſes from this doubtful Eſtate, is a high Addition to our Afflictions. All that I beg, my Lords, is, That we may be able to make ſome Eſtimate of ourſelves: Would his Majeſty be pleas'd to have a Quarter of our Eſtates? for my Part he ſhall have it: Would his Majeſty be pleas'd to have Half? for my Part, upon good Occaſions, he ſhall have it: But I beſeech Your Lordſhip's then, that we may have ſome Aſſurances of the quiet Enjoyment of the Remainder, and know what we have to truſt to.

MY Lords, the Commons have here ſent up a Bill for the giving his Majeſty the Twentieth Part of our Eſtates at the full extended Value; and I hear there are other Bills for Money alſo preparing; which together, according to the beſt Computation, will amount to little leſs than Three Millions of Money. A prodigious Sum! and ſuch, that if your Lordſhips will not afford Relief, we muſt of Neceſſity ſink under the Weight

Weight of ſo heavy a Preſſure. My Lords, the Scripture tells, That God Almighty ſets *Bounds* to the *Ocean*, and ſays to it, *Hither ſhall thy proud Waves come, and no further.* And ſo I hope your Lordſhips, in Imitation of the Deity, will ſet ſome Bounds, ſome Limits to the Over-liberal Humour of the Commons, and ſay to them, Hither ſhall your *Profuſeneſs* come, and no further. Either your Lordſhips can deny or moderate a Bill for Money coming from the Commons; or if you cannot, all your great Eſtates are wholly at their Diſpoſal, and your Lordſhips have nothing that you can properly call your own, and then let us paſs this Bill without further Examination. But if you can deny or moderate (as without Queſtion you can) your Lordſhips never had, nor poſſibly will have ſuch a fair Occaſion to ſhew it. My Lords, upon the whole Matter, I moſt humbly propoſe to your Lordſhips, that you would be pleaſed to reduce the Twelve-Pence in the Pound to Eight-Pence. And truly I have ſome Reaſon to hope, that if your Lordſhips will duly reflect upon it, you will find it to do accordingly; for, in the firſt Place, it will be ſo far from being a Diſſervice to his Majeſty, that your Lordſhips will do his Majeſty in it the higheſt Service in the World; for tho' you ſhall thereby take from his Majeſty a *Part* of the Sum, you would give him a *great deal more* in the *Love* and *Hearts* of his Subjects; and *there* his Majeſty *muſt* reign, if he will be *Great* and *Glorious*. And next, your Lordſhips will acquire to your ſelves Eternal Honour; ye ſhall thereby endear yourſelves to the whole Nation, who for the future will look upon you as the Ancients did upon their *Tutelar Gods*; nor ſhall the *Houſe of Commons*, but the *Houſe of Peers*, be hereafter precious in their

Sight.

Sight. My Lords, give me Leave to mind your Lordſhips, that *Noble Acts* are the Steps whereby the Great Men of the World aſcend the Throne of Glory; and can there be a Nobler Act than to *releaſe a diſtreſſed Kingdom*, which lies languiſhing under *ſo many* hard Oppreſſions; and is about to be *ſo much more* oppreſs'd?

'THIS Speech being printed ſhortly after, ſays 'the Hiſtorian, it was ſo diſtaſteful to the preſent 'Miniſtry, that it was order'd to be burnt by the 'Hands of the Common Hangman. How it affected 'the Heart of this Loyal Lord is not eaſily known; 'but in a very ſhort time after he departed this Life 'with the Reputation of one who had ever been faith-'ful to his King and Country. However, it ſeem'd 'to have affected the Houſe of Lords ſo far, that they 'immediately began to examine this Subſidy-Bill with 'more than uſual Strictneſs, *&c.*'

THIS, and ſome other Extraordinary Steps that were ſoon after taken, brought the Leading Men of that Time not only under Contempt, but gave ſtrong Suſpicions to the People of Bribery and Corruption, and laid the then Houſe of Commons under the Neceſſity of purging themſelves by the following Teſt: Which I hope will not be looked upon as an ill Precedent, if ever, in ſome future Time, we ſhould fall into the like Circumſtances. [*P.* 920. *Anno* 1675.]

I A. B. do proteſt before God, and this Houſe of Parliament, That directly, nor indirectly, neither I, nor any for my Uſe, to my Knowledge, have, ſince the firſt

first Day of January, 1672, had, or received any Sum or Sums of Money by Ways of Imprest, Gift, Loan, or otherwise, from the King's Majesty, or any other Person by his Majesty's Order, Direction, or Knowledge, or by Authority derived from his said Majesty, or any Pardon, Discharge or Respite of any Money due to his said Majesty upon Account, or any Grant, Pension, Gratuity, or Reward, or any Promise of any such Office, Place or Command of or from his Majesty, or out of any Money, Treasure, or Estate, of or belonging to his Majesty, or of, from, or by any foreign Ambassador, or Minister, or of, or from any other Person in the Name, or by the Appointment, or with the Knowledge of his Majesty, or any of them; otherwise than what I have now in Writing faithfully discover'd, and deliver'd to this House, which I have subscribed with my Name: Neither do I know of any such Gift, Grant, or Promise so given or made since the said Time to any other Member of this House, but what I have also inserted in the said Writing; nor have I given my Vote in Parliament for any Reward or Promise whatsoever. So help me God, &c.

I am, *SIR*,

*Your Humble Servant*,

H. J. D. C.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXXII.

*Eſt modus in rebus, ſunt certi denique fines,*
*Quos ultra citraque nequit conſiſtere rectum.* HOR.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1723.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

THE Incroachments made from Time to Time upon the *Eſtabliſh'd Church* by the *Diſſenters* of *all Denominations*, deſerve the ſerious Conſideration and Reflection of all *True Lovers* of our Excellent Conſtitution.

THEY have always grown upon *Conceſſions*, and have never fail'd to take Advantage of the *Neceſſities* or *Exigencies* of the ſeveral *Adminiſtrations* under which they have liv'd, to ſtrengthen themſelves at the *Expence* of the *very Eſtabliſhment* that gave them *Protection* and *Indulgence*.

THE

THE *Exemption* obtain'd very lately, by a *particular Sect* among them, from the *ſolemn* Obligations requir'd of all others by the *Government*, as it was far from being conſiſtent with *True Policy* for them to aſk, and was no doubt the Attempt of ſome *over-nicely-ſcrupulous Zealots* amongſt them, ſo is it a flagrant Inſtance of the Truth of this Obſervation.

THAT *Jeſuitical* Body of People well knew the Time, (the *approaching* Diſſolution of a Parliament, and the ſpeedy Calling of *a new one*) and the *particular Views* of *ſome People* to ſupport themſelves in *Power*, would not allow them to be *diſoblig'd*, and they puſh'd the advantageous *Criſis* with a *Warmth* and *Dexterity* peculiar to *themſelves*, and obtain'd ſuch a *Diſtinction*, that, if it does not glance a *Reflection* on all *other* Profeſſions, is however very glorious for themſelves; ſince the bare *Affirmation* or *Creed* of a *Quaker*, without any *ſolemn Invocation* or *Appeal*, is held a *Security* for their *Fidelity* to the *State*, equivalent to the moſt *Solemn* and *Binding Oaths* of *all* others, whether *Churchmen* or *Diſſenters*.

AND here I believe it will not be amiſs to give a ſhort Account of this People from their *firſt Appearance*, and by what Steps they have grown upon *Indulgence* to ſo conſiderable a Height, as to procure for themſelves ſuch *extraordinary Favours*.

THEIR firſt Appearance was in the Year 1649, when the Uſurpation of the *Commonwealth*, founded on the Murder of an Excellent King, became the Parent of numberleſs Evils both to Church and State. At what Time (ſays *Echard* in his Hiſtory of *England*)

'never was greater Licence and Extravagance in Spi-'ritual Matters, Herefies and Blaſphemies ſwelling 'againſt Heaven to a prodigious Height. Particular-'ly one *Salmon*, a Preacher in *Coventry*, taught the 'People to ſwear and curſe, and to commit Whore-'dom, upon this profeſs'd Principle, *That it was God 'that did ſwear in them, and that it was their Liberty 'to keep Company with Women, to ſatisfy their 'natural Appetites*. And one *Wyke* ſet up for *breath-'ing the Spirit of God into Men*, by kiſſing them three 'times. And beſides theſe, ſays my Author, the 'unaccountable Exorbitancies and Illuminations of 'George Fox, and the People call'd *Quakers*, had their 'firſt Appearances in the ſame Year.

FROM this Time to the Year *1656*, this Sect became rather the Subject of *Amuſement* and *Diver-ſion* to the *Populace*, by their *Enthuſiaſm* and *ridicu-lous Geſticulations*, from whence they derived their *Name*, than noted for any conſiderable Progreſs. But about that Time *James Naylor* and other *Enthuſiaſts*, render'd them infamouſly conſpicuous: The Manner whereof I ſhall recite in the Words of the ſame Author.

'AT the ſame Time, the Parliament was imploy'd 'and diſturb'd by the frequent Effuſions of Religious 'Phrenzy. The *Quakers* were extravagantly mad, if 'they may be judg'd by the reſt of the World: One 'diſturb'd the Preacher in *White-Chapel Church*, with 'ſuch a ſeditious Impulſe, that a Complaint was made 'to the Protector, who ordered him to a Juſtice of 'the Peace, and to be proſecuted according to Law. 'Another pretending to an immediate Meſſage from 'God,

'God, went about the Streets denouncing his Judgments against the Protector and his Council. A 'Third in *Colchester* was so infatuated, as to starve himself to Death, upon the Claim of a Commission 'from the Spirit, *That he must fast Forty Days*. But 'the most impudent of all Mortals, was *James Naylor*, 'a late Soldier under General *Lambert*, who blasphemously set up to be Jesus himself in Person, and 'so with Curly Hair, and Looks resembling the 'Pictures of our Blessed Saviour, he went about with 'Disciples, and Women ministring unto him. And 'so entred the City of *Bristol*, riding upon an Ass, 'with Women and a Mob crying *Hosanna!* &c. and 'giving no other Answer to any Question, but *Thou 'hast said it*. The Magistrates of that City sent him 'to *Westminster*; where the Parliament, *Dec.* 8. Re'solv'd, *That* James Naylor *was guilty of horrid 'Blasphemy, and a great Seducer of the People*; and 'order'd the Speaker to pronounce this remarkable 'Sentence against him; *To stand in the Pillory Two 'Hours at* Westminster; *To be whipp'd by the Hang'man thro' the Streets from* Westminster *to the* Old Exchange, *and there to stand in the Pillory Two 'Hours more*; *His Tongue bored thro' with a Hot Iron, 'and his Forehead stigmatiz'd with the Letter* B; *To be 'afterwards sent to* Bristol, *and convey'd thro' the City 'on a Horse bare-back'd, and his Face backward, and 'his Body whipp'd in the Market-Place: Thence to be 'brought back to* London, *and committed to Prison in 'Bridewell, and there to be restrain'd from all Company, 'and to have no Relief but what he earns from hard 'Labour; and being debarr'd from the Use of Pen, Ink 'and Paper, shall be kept to continual Work 'till he shall 'be releas'd by the Parliament.

'IT was some Reproach to Human Nature, as one 'justly observes *(continues the Historian)* that this 'wretched Fellow, under all his Sufferings, had some 'of his Followers to admire and adore him, to lick his 'Wounds, to kiss his Feet, to lean in his Bosom, 'and to do all that was prodigiously impious and silly. 'When he came first to *Bridewell*, to act on the Im-'posture, he fasted Three Days; but the *Flesh* over-'powering the *Spirit*, he begg'd for Victuals, and fell 'to Work. He was for some Time disown'd by the '*Quakers*; but afterwards, upon some Acknowledg-'ment, receiv'd again into their Favour, and so con-'tinued one of their Preachers 'till his Death, which 'happen'd in the Year 1660, in the County of *Hun-'tingdon*.'

FROM such *Blasphemous Beginnings* was this Sect produc'd, and afterwards placing their *Religion* in *Dress*, and an *affected Simplicity* of *Speech*, they drew in abundance of well-meaning ignorant People; and at the *Revolution* found themselves considerable enough to be taken Notice of and favour'd in a particular manner, in the *Indulgence* granted to *Protestant Dissenters*, by an *Exemption* from taking the *usual Oaths*, and subscribing a *Declaration* of *Fidelity* instead thereof.

BY an Act passed in the 7th and 8th of King *William*, they only aim'd to be excus'd the usual Oaths, and to be permitted to make the following Affirmation instead of them; *viz.* I. A. B. *do declare in the Presence of Almighty God, the Witness of the Truth of what I say* ——Nor was it thought fit to continue in Force the Favour of this Act, for any longer than Seven Years.

BUT

BUT taking Advantage of a Poſture of Affairs favourable for them, they obtain'd, in the 13th of the ſame Reign, (before the Expiration of the preſcribed Term) *An Act for continuing the former Act*, and for *prolonging* the *Indulgence* to them for *Eleven Years* after the Determination of the former.

UPON His Majeſty's Happy Acceſſion to the Throne, they began to *extend their Views*, and found Intereſt enough to procure the *Exemption* given them by the former Acts, to be made *perpetual*, by an Act paſſed *Primo Georgii*, and thereby in a manner became *eſtabliſh'd*.

HERE it might have been reaſonably expected, that, as well in Point of *Policy*, as in *Duty* and *Gratitude*, they would have reſted themſelves ſatisfy'd: But, grown *wanton* with *Indulgence*, *new Scruples* now invade their *tender Conſciences*, and, watching a *ſuitable* Opportunity, they procure the *Force* of their *Affirmation* to be enervated, and obtain a *Favour* which is deny'd to the moſt *Loyal* and *Greateſt Subjects* in the King's Dominions: Such a *Favour!* that they cannot enjoy, if they ſhould be *convinc'd* of their *Errors*, and come over to the Church of *England*, and is therefore very little likely to encourage them to ſuch a Change. The Words [*In the Preſence of Almighty God, the Witneſs of the Truth of what I ſay.*] are omitted, and almoſt the *ſimple Word* of a *Quaker* is render'd of equal Validity with the *Oath* of a *Biſhop*, or a *Privy-Counſellor*.

NO doubt the *Legiſlature* had its Reaſons for this *extraordinary Indulgence*; and as the *Petition* of the

*Clergy* of the City of *London* against the Bill, and the *Opposition* and *Protests* of several *Noble Peers*, were not of Weight *sufficient* to prevent its passing; 'tis the *Duty* of the *private Subject* to acquiesce; and 'tis likewise the *Duty* of *those Men* to be satisfy'd, and to make a *righteous Use* of a *Liberty*, which would leave a *Jesuit* at large, though it seems to be thought sufficient to hold a *Quaker*.

I SHALL only add, That as I would be very far from becoming an Advocate for an unhappy Set of Men, who refuse to take the Oaths to his present Majesty; yet, surely, as it was only an *Indulgence to Tender Consciences* that moved the *Legislature* to exempt the *Quakers* from the *most solemn* Part of the *Obligation*, a little *Consideration* for *other* scrupulous Consciences would have been no *Insecurity* to the *State*, but rather an *Act* of *Mercy* and *Goodness* in the *Legislature*, which is so usual to the *British* Establishment and Genius.

THERE are, no doubt, many *good Subjects* even among the *Nonjurors* and *Papists* themselves; and tho' they may think it unlawful to bind their Souls by some *particular* Acquisitions, yet are so well satisfy'd with the Justice of the *Parliamentary* Title of his present Majesty, which has, for Centuries, been esteem'd a Legal one, that they would not scruple their *Allegiance* to King GEORGE; nor to give all those Assurances which might secure their *quiet Behaviour* and *Duty* to the Government.

THE *Services* made by this Body of Men, and the *Incapacities* and *Injustices* they chuse to lie under, rather

rather than comply or what they believe unlawful, are more flagrant Instances of their being influenc'd by the Dictates of *Conscience*, than [illegible] of present Behaviour of certain Sectaries can [illegible] and I should think, that (setting aside the *Passions* and *Prejudices* of some Men among them, who seem rather to have been guided by a Spirit of *Rhapsody* and *Enthusiasm*, than by the Influences of *Truth* and *Reason*) they may be yet esteem'd a Body of Men worth recovering to the State, and have as good a Title to *Indulgence*, with regard to *some Part* of the *State Oaths*, as *any* Set of People whatsoever.

'TIS too notorious, that the Number of *Tests* has added to the Body of *Nonjurors*, and many Men who have been *good Subjects* to King *WILLIAM* and Queen *ANNE*, (who had no *other* or *stronger* Title than that of His present Majesty) have since unhappily augmented that Body; And as it has pleased God to take to himself the *first Beginners* of the *State Schism*, as I may call it, so I am apt to believe, That had had it not been for some *rigorous Terms* and *Inforcements* in the *State Oaths*, which some People imagine *not essential* to the *Security* of the *State*, the Body of the *Nonjurors* would by this Time have dwindled away, or at least been too inconsiderable for the Publick Notice.

*I am, SIR,*

*Your Admirer and Humble Servant,*

ORTHODOX.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXXIII.

*Nemo satis credit tantum delinquere, quantum Permittas, adeo indulgent sibi latius ipsi.* JUV.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23. 1723.

## To the TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

HAVING in my last Letter, taken Notice by what Steps the *Quakers* have grown upon the *Indulgence* of the Government, till they have procur'd for themselves *Privileges* and *Exemptions*, beyond what much *better Subjects*, and, to all Appearance, more *Conscientious People* could obtain, I believe, to complete that Subject, it will be very acceptable, if, through your Means, Posterity be inform'd, that these *partial Favours* were not conferr'd upon that *wily People*, without the *Remonstrances* of a considerable Body of the *Clergy*, as well as the *Opposition* of a Number of *Noble Peers*. I send you therefore, the *Petition* of the *London* Clergy, and the *Protests* of those Lords, on the *Rejecting* that

*Peti-*

*Petition*, and againſt the paſſing of the Bill: And believe, That, notwithſtanding their having been already publiſh'd, they contain ſo many *ſeeming* good Reaſons for the *Oppoſition* given, as well as a *true Character* of the *Principles* of *thoſe People*, that every *True Briton*, who has at Heart the Intereſts of the *Pureſt Church* and *Beſt Conſtitution* in the World, cannot fail of being pleaſed to ſee them in your Excellent Paper.

*I am, SIR,*

*Your moſt Humble Servant,*

ORTHODOX.

## *The Humble* PETITION *of the* London *Clergy againſt the* Quakers Bill;

*Sheweth,*

THAT that there is a Bill now depending in your Lordſhips Houſe, intitled, *An Act for granting the People call'd Quakers, ſuch Forms of Affirmation or Declaration, as may remove the Difficulties which many of them lie under.* Which Bill, ſhould it paſs into a Law, as it may, in its Conſequences, nearly affect the Property of the Subject in General, ſo will it, in a more eſpecial Manner, endanger the legal Maintenance of the Clergy by *Tythes*: Inaſmuch as the People called *Quakers*, pretend to deny the Payment of *Tythes*, upon a *Principle* of *Conſcience*; and therefore, as your Petitioners apprehend, may be under *ſtrong Inducements* to *eaſe* their *Conſcience* in *that* Reſpect, by *violating* it in another, when their *ſimple Affirmation*, in behalf of *Friends*

of

of the *ſame* Perſuaſion, ſhall paſs in all *Courts* of *Juſtice* for *legal Evidence*.

HOWEVER, the Injuries that your Petitioners, in their *private Rights*, may poſſibly ſuffer, are, as they ought to be, of ſmall Account with them, in Compariſon of the Miſchiefs which may redound to *Society* from the *Indulgence* intended; as it ſeems to imply, that *Juſtice* may be duly adminiſtred, and *Government* ſupported, without the Intervention of any *ſolemn Appeal* to *God*, *as the Witneſs of the Truth of what is ſaid*, by all Perſons, in Caſes of great Importance to the *common* Welfare: Whereas your Petitioners are firmly perſuaded, that an *Oath* was inſtituted by *God* himſelf, as the *ſureſt* Bond of *Fidelity* among Men, and hath been *eſteemed* and *found* ſo to be, by the *Wiſdom* and *Experience* of *all* Nations, in *all* Ages.

BUT that which chiefly moves your Petitioners to apply to your Lordſhips, is, their ſerious Concern, leſt the Minds of good Men ſhould be grieved and wounded, and the Enemies of *Chriſtianity* triumph, if they ſhould ſee ſuch *Condeſcenſions* made, by a *Chriſtian Legiſlature*, to a Sect of Men, who *renounce* the *Divine Inſtitutions* of *Chriſt*, particularly *That* by which the *Faithful* are *initiated* into his *Religion*, and denominated *Chriſtians*; and who cannot, on *this* Account, according to the *uniform Judgment* and *Practice* of the *Catholick Church*, be deem'd worthy of that *ſacred Name*.

YOUR Petitioners do moreover crave Leave to repreſent to your Lordſhips, That, upon the *beſt* In-

Information they can gain, the Instances wherein any *Quaker* hath refused the *solemn Affirmation* prescribed by an Act in the Seventh and Eighth of *William* III. have, from the passing that Act to this Day, been exceeding *rare*; so that there might be Ground to hope, that the continued Use of the said *solemn Affirmation* would, by Degrees, have cured that People of all those *unreasonable Prejudices* against an *Oath*, which the *Favour* design'd them by their Bill may tend to *Strengthen* and *Confirm*.

AND your Petitioners humbly leave it to your Lordships wise Deliberation, Whether such an *extraordinary Indulgence*, granted to a People already, (as is conceived) too Numerous, may not contribute to *multiply* their *Sect*, and tempt Persons to profess themselves *Quakers*, in order to be *exempted* from the *Obligation* of *Oaths*, and to stand upon a Foot of *Privilege* not allow'd to the *best Christians* and *Subjects* in the Kingdom.

YOUR Petitioners therefore humbly hope, that *these*, and *other* Considerations which may offer themselves to your Lordships great Wisdom, may induce your Lordships *not* to give your Consent to the passing this Bill into a Law.

*And your Petitioners shall ever pray*, &c.

*Die*

*Die Mercurij* 17° *Die Januarij* 1721.

*A MOTION being made, That the ſaid Petition be rejected? After Debate,*

*THE Queſtion was put, Whether the ſaid Petition ſhall be rejected? It was reſolved in the Affirmative.*

*Diſſentient,*

I. BECAUSE the Right of Petitioning, in a *legal Manner*, to *legal Purpoſes*, does we apprehend, appertain by *Law* and *Uſage*, to the *Free People* of this Realm; and is as eſſential to the Subject, acting within his *due Bounds*, as the *Liberty* of *Debate* is to the *Conſtitution* of *Parliament*. And this Right, as it extends to the Petitioning even for the *Repeal* of *Acts now in Force*, by which the People think themſelves aggrieved; ſo it juſtifies them yet more, in repreſenting their humble Senſe of any new Law, while it is *under the Conſideration* of *Parliament*. Nor are the *Clergy*, we preſume, *leſs privileged* in Relation to the *Exerciſe* of this *Right*, than *any other* of His Majeſty's Subjects: On the contrary, we believe them as *worthy* of *enjoying*, and as *capable* of *exerting* it to *wiſe* and *good Ends*, as any Rank of private Men in the Kingdom.

II. BECAUSE the *Petition* rejected, is, in our Opinion, *proper* and *inoffenſive*, both as to the *Matter* and *Manner* of it: Since it partly relates to the *peculiar Rights* of the *Clergy* in point of *Tythes*, and partly expreſſes their *Fears*, (as we conceive, not altogether groundleſs), leſt the Sect of *Quakers*, already too numerous, ſhould, by this *new Indulgence*, be greatly *multiplyed*; and leſt the *Honour of Religion* ſhould

should any ways suffer, and the *Foundations of Government* be shaken by what is intended; both which it is the *particular Duty* of *their Function* to uphold and secure. We are not therefore apprehensive, that it *misbecame* their *Characters* to *interpose* on any of these important Points: And the *Way* in which they have done it, must seem to us free from Exception, till some *Passage* in their *Petition* is pitch'd upon as *obnoxious*, and *censured* by the House; which, as yet, hath not been done.

III. BECAUSE the *Petition* suggests a *particular Grievance* under which the *Clergy* will suffer by this Act, more than any *other Order* of Men; which, as it had never been observed in the *Debates* on the Bill, so was allow'd to *deserve* the Consideration of the House. And therefore, had there been any *other Part* of their *Petition* less unexceptionable (as we apprehend, there is not) yet do we not think, that it was reasonable to lay aside the *Whole*, on that Account, and reject what was acknowledg'd *fit* to be considered, for the sake of what was thought *improper* to be offered.

IV. BECAUSE the *Clergy* of *London* are not in general so *liberally* provided for, but that they have Reason to be watchful in Relation to any Step that may unwarily be taken towards *diminishing* their Maintenance; which we look upon as not duly proportioned to their Labours, in populous Parishes, and to the various Employments given them by *Infidels*, and *Hereticks*, *Papists*, and divers *Sects* of Men dissenting from the Church establish'd by Law, with which this Metropolis is known to abound. And as their

their *Situation* gives them *near* Opportunities of observing and knowing what may be stirred in Parliament to the Prejudice of their Order; so we cannot but think, that it becomes them to make use of *that* Advantage, in behalf of their *distant* Brethren, as often as Need shall require; especially at a Time when the *Representatives* of the *Clergy* are not attending in *Convocation*, and in a *Readiness* to exert their *known Right* of applying to the *Legislature* on all such Occasions.

V. BECAUSE the *London-Clergy*, from whence the *Petition* came, are, in our Opinion, and have been always esteemed, of *great Consideration*, with Respect to their *extensive Influence*, and their Ability to be serviceable to the State in *important Conjunctures*. From *the* Body of Men have proceeded many of the most *eminent Lights* of the *Church*, and *Ornaments* of the *Bishops Bench*; especially since the *Revolution*; and, in the Reign preceding it, their *never-to-be-forgotten Labours* put a Stop to the *Torrent* of *Popery*, then ready to overflow us. On which, and many other Accounts, we cannot but wish, that the *Applications* at any Time made to this House by the *City Clergy*, might be received with *Regard* and *Tenderness*; and a more than ordinary *Indulgence* allow'd *them*, at a Time, when so *great Favours* are about to be bestowed on the *professed Oppugners* of their *Function* and *Maintenance*.

VI. BECAUSE by Experience we find, that the treating in this Manner a *Petition* from any *great* and *considerable Body* of Men, is not the best way to allay the *Jealousies*, and extinguish the *Uneasiness* that occa-

occasioned it; a very contrary Effect having followed (according to the best of our Observation) from the rejecting a Petition lately offered by the City of *London*. And the oftner such Instances are repeated, the more, we fear, the *Disaffection* of the *People* will increase, who thinking themselves under *Hardships*, from which they desire to be relieved, may look upon it as a *new*, and yet *greater* Hardship, not to be heard. And though the modest and dutiful Demeanor of the *Clergy* should no ways contribute to these Consequences, yet we know not how far *this* may be the Case with respect to their *Flocks*; to whom their *Persons* and *Characters* are dear, and who may, therefore be induced by the Reverence they bear to their Pastors, to express as much Concern on *their* Account, as they would on *their own*. For which Reason it was our earnest Desire, that this second, and, in our Opinion, dangerous Experiment, might not have been made.

*W. Ebor.*
*Weston*, Earl of *Arran*.
*Uxbridge*.
*Scarsdale*.
*Compton*.
*Bristol*.
*Cornwallis*.
*Strafford*.
*Foley*.
*North* and *Grey*.

*Gower*.
*Trevor*.
*Bingley*.
*St. John de Bletsoe*.
*Guilford*.
*Cowper*.
*Aberdeen*.
*Bathurst*.
*Montjoy*, Visc. *Windsor*.
*Fr. Raffen*.

The

*Die Veneris 19° Januarii*, 1721.

Hodie 3ª vice lecta est Billa, Intitled, *An Act for Granting the People called* Quakers, *such Forms of Affirmation and Declaration, as may remove the Difficulties which many of them lye under.*

*The Question was put, Whether this Bill shall pass?*

*It was resolved in the Affirmative.*

*Dissentient.*

W. CANT. JO. OXON.

I. BECAUSE the *Privileges* allowed by this Bill to the *Quakers*, are *without Example*, and no ways proportioned to the Steps formerly taken towards a *gradual Indulgence* of them. For, whereas they have been hitherto under the *real Obligation* of an *Oath*, though dispensed with as to some *Formalities*, with respect to the *Manner* of *Wording* and *Taking* it, they are now altogether released both from the *Form* and *Substance* of an *Oath*, and admitted to profess *Fidelity*, and give *Testimony*, upon their *simple Affirmation*: Nor are these *Great* Privileges indulged to them (as the *Less* were) from *Time to Time*, and by *Degrees*, but are at once made *perpetual*.

II. BECAUSE we look upon the *Quakers*, who reject the *Two Sacraments* of *Christ*, and are, as far as they so do, unworthy of the Name of *Christians*, to be on *that* Account, unworthy also of receiving such distinguishing Marks of Favour.

III. BECAUSE the *Quakers*, as they renounce the Institutions of *Christ*, so have they not given even the Evidence by Law required of their *Belief* of *His Divi-*

*Divinity*: It no ways appearing to us (or do we believe it can be made appear) that ever since they were first indulged [1 *W.* and *M.*] one *Quaker* in an Hundred hath subscribed the *Profession of Christian Belief* directed by that Act; nor could we, upon a Motion made in the House, prevail, that they should even now be obliged by such *previous* Subscription, to intitle themselves to the new and extraordinary Favours designed them. The Consequence of which must, in our Opinion, be, That they will encourage themselves *yet further* in their Aversion to subscribe that *Profession of Christian Belief*; which they seem more to decline, than even the taking of an *Oath*; since great Numbers of them have *sworn*, though very few have *subscribed* that Profession. Nor are we without Apprehensions, that it may reflect some Dishonour on the Christian Faith, if the Evidence given by such Persons on their *bare Word*, shall by Law be judged of *equal Credit* with the *solemn Oath* of an *acknowledged Christian*, and *sincere Member* of the *Established Communion*.

IV. BECAUSE we look upon it as highly unreasonable, that, in a Kingdom where the *Nobles*, the *Clergy* and *Commons*, are obliged to swear Fealty to the Crown, and even the *Sovereign* Himself takes an *Oath* at his Coronation; a *particular Sect* of Men, who refuse to serve the *State*, either as *Civil Officers*, or *Soldiers*, should be intirely released from that Obligation: Since 'tis natural to expect, that Persons thus indulged, as to the Manner of *Professing*, and the Measure of *Performing* their Allegiance, should, by Degrees, be induced totally to withdraw it, 'till they become as *bad Subjects* as *Christians*.

V. BECAUSE though such extraordinary Privileges are allowed to the Sect of *Quakers* by this Bill, yet there is no *Mark* or *Test* prescribed by it, or by any *other Act*, by which it may certainly be known who are *Quakers*, and, consequently, who *are*, or *are not* intitled to those Privileges. From whence this Inconvenience may arise, That many not really *Quakers*, may yet shelter themselves under the Cover of that Name, on purpose to be released from the Obligations of Oaths; it not being, we conceive, in the Power of the *Magistrate*, as the Bill stands, to oblige any Person to take an *Oath*, who at the Time of tendering it, shall profess himself a *Quaker*: So that the *Concession* now made to that *Sect*, may prove a *great Inlet* to *Hypocrisy* and *Falshood*, and will naturally tend towards *increasing* their Numbers; which we rather wish may be every Day diminished.

VI. BECAUSE we do not apprehend that the *Quakers*, as a *Sect*, are really under *such Scruples* in Point of an *Oath*, that it is *necessary* to ease them by such an Act; few of them having, for *Five and twenty Years* past, since their *Solemn Affirmation* (equivalent to an *Oath*) was enacted, ever refused to comply with it: And, should this have now and then happen'd, yet, when the *great Body* of any sort of *Sectaries* are at Ease in their Consciences, the *Scruples* of a *few*, we think, ought not to be regarded; especially, if continuing the Law now in Force will probably *extinguish* those Scruples, and the *Repeal* of it will certainly give new *Life* and *Strength* to them.

VII. BE-

VII. BECAUSE the Security of the *Subject's Property*, which depends upon *Testimony*, seems to us to be *lessened* by this Act; the Reverence of an *Oath* having been always observed to operate farther towards the Discovery of *Truth*, than any other *less solemn* Form of *Asseveration*. Nor can the *Quakers* be excepted in this Case, whose *just* Apprehensions of an *Oath* appear from their *earnest Endeavours* to decline it; and therefore, where the Payment of *Tythes*, by them held to be *sinful*, is concerned, they will have *strong Inducements* to disguise the *Truth* in what they *simply* affirm, rather than wound their *Consciences* and *Credit*, by contributing towards the Support of such an *Antichristian* Payment. In other Cases of *Property*, their *Interest* only will clash with their *Veracity*; but the *Double Motive* of *Interest* and *Conscience*, will influence them with respect to the *Clergy*, whose *Calling* and *Maintenance* they equally condemn.

VIII. BECAUSE the Inducement, mentioned in the Bill, towards granting the *Quakers* these Favours, *That they are well Affected to the Government*; (a Position of which we have *some Doubt*) might, we apprehend, be improved into a Reason for granting *like* Favours to *Deists*, *Arians*, *Jews*, and even to *Heathens* themselves; *all* of which may possibly be, as *some* of them certainly are, *Friends to the Government*. However their *Friendship*, we presume, would be cultivated at too great an Expence, if for the sake of it, any thing should be done by the *Legislature*, which might weaken the *Security* of *all Governments*, an *Oath*; and, by that Means, do more Mischief to

the State, in one reſpect, than it brought Advantage in another. And we the rather thus chuſe to reaſon, becauſe an Argument was urged in the Debate, and no ways diſallowed, That if *Heathens* themſelves were equally of Uſe to the State, as the *Quakers* are, they ought alſo equally by Law to be indulged: Whereas our firm Perſuaſion is, *That as no Man ſhould be perſecuted for his Opinions in Religion*, ſo neither ſhould any Man, who is known to *avow* Principles *deſtructive* of *Chriſtianity*, however *uſeful* he may otherwiſe be to the *State*, be encouraged, by a Law *purpoſely made in his Favour, to continue* in thoſe Principles.

*W. Ebor.*
*Fr. Roffen.*
*Gower.*
*Montjoy* Viſc. *Windſor.*
*Strafford.*
*F. Ceſtriens.*
*St. John de Bletſoe.*
*Salisbury.*
*Aberdeen.*
*Trevor.*
*Compton.*

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXXIV.

*Quod ſtulti proprium? Non poſſe & velle nocere.*
AUSON.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27. 1723.

WE ſhall give the following Letter a Place in this Paper, and, provided our Fair Correſpondent keeps the Conditions ſhe preſcribes to herſelf for the future, ſhall not ſcruple to acknowledge the Favour of her Letters: But *Conciſeneſs* is what muſt be inſiſted on, becauſe of the *Wretchedneſs* of the Subject wherewith ſhe propoſes to *ſully* her fair Fingers.

## *To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*Dear SIR,*

I THINK the Method you take of deſpiſing your ſtupid Adverſaries, is intirely worthy of the *True Briton*: But yet I cannot forbear having ſome Compaſſion for the poor Creatures, to ſee how *dully*

they labour to merit your Notice, and beg the *Means* of *Life* at your Hands. I am told by one of my Admirers, That those few Coffee-Houses, where the Beneficence of their Paymasters encourages People to take in their Papers, are quite tyr'd out with the Daily Complaints made of them; and that the very Persons who are *hir'd* to inquire for them in Publick, in order to make 'em noted, are asham'd to ask for 'em, lest all the Gentlemen round should judge of their *Intellects* by the *Choice* of their *Papers*.

THIS, good Sir, is certainly enough to exasperate against you Persons of more Wit, and less Temper than your Antagonists seem to be. They repine in Secret, I am told, at your Neglect of 'em: And t'other Day, in a *dark Corner* of a certain Coffee-Room neat St. *James's*, the motly Crew of *Sycophants* and *Blunderers* got together, and were over-heard to mutter out their Discontents and Despair.

AN abandon'd Wretch, who bears in his very Face the Stamp of Villain and Apostate, and seems peculiarly branded as well by the transcendant Ugliness of his Person, as the still more hideous Deformity of his Mind, which has long display'd itself in ridiculing every thing *Divine* and *Humane*, began the Condolence with his Fellow-Labourers *Ams-Ace* the expell'd *Poetaster*, and *Stupid* the *Publican*, who were accompany'd with their good Ally and Confederate *Pam'*, a late exploded *Prologue-monger*, and several *Bawd-droppers* and *Informers*, who make up this *diminutive* Cabal. In Bitterness of Heart he curst your Contempt of their Papers, and declared, that their *Grand Patron* was determin'd to withdraw their Sala-

ries,

ries, if they could shew no greater Merit than they had hitherto done for continuing them.

THEN frightfully grinning, with violent Execrations, he vociferated, *Is there such a Difference between Men and Men, that I who have endeavour'd to confound all Orders and Distinctions in the World, and have my* Itinerant *Name on Record in all Places necessary to preserve its villainous Existence, should not be able to provoke this d——n'd Author to take the least Notice of us. Our Business would be done if he would but once name us in his accurs'd Paper. But* (continued he with his usual Imprecations) *I am out of all Patience, when I look upon our* Headless *Paper, and see, by the Indulgence of our Patrons, EX odd, and still scribbling on, and no manner of Likelihood that we shall ever be remember'd for a single Year to come.*

*Ams-Ace*, shrugging his Shoulders, answer'd, *I have the Misfortune, indeed, whenever I quit my solitary Garret, and prowl among the Human Species in Search of Food, to hear every living Creature condemn our Luckless Performance, and have long despair'd of meriting the promised Rewards, and so must sink unsupported and undistinguish'd into Oblivion. But as for you Mr.* Grim, *and Mr.* Stupid, *ye have already, in Part, reap'd the Rewards of your Inborn Malice and Dulness, and the Ex——r and Ex——e contribute comfortably to your Subsistance. And as for our younger Brother* Pam', *he will be happy enough, if he can but be read and allow'd to boast his stupid Folly among the* Templers *at* Dick's, *and so be presum'd 30 Years hence capable to draw a Deed to secure to his Bookseller the Property of his future Lucubrations.*

*But I, who have tyr'd out all Mankind from my Patron* Bl——t, *to the meaneſt* Coffee-Man, *am doom'd, I ſee, to be the moſt miſerable of all* Hackney Drudges!

THE Dialogue was interrupted by the coming in of a certain *Courtier*, on whom the whole Gang voraciouſly faſten'd for a Dinner.

I BEG Pardon, Sir, for *hoping* you will inſert this in your Paper, as well as for a farther Requeſt I have to make to you. —— And that is, —— You ſee, Sir, the *Writers* and *their Cauſe* are well match'd. 'Tis impoſſible they ſhould hurt you with their *impotent Malice*, and yet you may, without concerning your ſelf about them, do the poor Creatures great Service, and keep them from Starving, if (as ſometimes you entertain the Town with the Letters of your Admirers) you will be pleaſed to commit theſe *doughty* Champions to the Correction of *myſelf* and a *Lady of my Acquaintance*. I'll aſſure you, Sir, in *Pity* to them, we will ſpare 'em a little now and then, and not take too much Advantage of their *Ignorance* and *Blunders*: And we will endeavour at the ſame time to be ſo *conciſe*, as not to hinder *better Entertainment*: For a Letter once a Week or a Fortnight, Heaven knows! may eaſily comprehend all that is worthy even of a *Woman's Notice* in all the *Three* Papers, and be comprized in *very few* Lines too. If this Propoſal obtain not your *Approbation*, I hope it may merit your *Excuſe*, the only Motive for it being *mere Chriſtian Charity*. For I can't be thought to propoſe to my ſelf any Honour in triumphing over ſuch weak Wretches.

*I am, S. I R.*

*Your Conſtant Reader and Admirer,*

ATHALIAH DORMANT.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*Hampton, September* 16. 1723.

THE Antiquity and Noble Acts of *my Anceſtors*, are ſo well known to the *True Briton*, that I cannot doubt of his generouſly giving his Opinion, when he reflects on the mean Circumſtances *we* are reduced to, and how difficult it is to have Advice, without large Fees.

I HAVE a ſmall Farm, which intitles me to vote for a Knight of the Shire, and am ſummoned to take the New-faſhioned Oaths; in them I found *Three* hard Words, which neither the *Conſtable* nor *I* underſtood. We went to the neareſt Juſtice, and deſired him to tells us, What *Allegiance* was? I obſerv'd he look'd out of Humour; but after ſome Time, told us, That *Allegiance* was *Allegiance*. I deſigned to beg a clearer Anſwer, but his Clerk whiſper'd, That *Allegiance* was an Out-Landiſh Word; That his Maſter was of the *Quorum*; and that I muſt behave with more Reſpect. I bowed very Low, and intreated his Honour to tell me, What *Supremacy* was? He immediately anſwered, *She is the Whore of* Babylon. I was mighty glad to find his Opinion ſo poſitive in that Point; for I could, with a ſafe Conſcience, ſwear, that I would never knowingly or voluntarily go into her Company; and do, on the Faith of a Chriſtian, believe, that all my Relations are of the ſame Mind in this Article; for we are known to be a very Chaſt Family. Then I humbly intreated his Honour to tell me, Who *Abjuration* was? I eaſily

ſaw

HOW Noble and Uſeful a Study is that of HISTORY, which at one View preſents the Riſe, Fortunes and Cataſtrophes of the moſt eminent Perſons; and at the ſame Time that it records the Good or Bad Actions of paſt Ages, inſtructs the preſent to imitate the Firſt, and avoid the Laſt!

THE *Riſe*, *Progreſs* and *Declenſion* of the ſeveral *Great Monarchies* of the World, afford numberleſs Inſtances of the Mutability of Fortune, and the Vanity of all Humane Policies; which may ſerve Poſterity as ſo many Sea-Marks to ſhun the Rocks on which the Great Men who have gone before, have ſo miſerably been daſh'd in Pieces.

THE moſt dangerous of all Paſſions is *Ambition*, or an inordinate Deſire of Rule and Dominion; and this Appetite is never ſo pernicious to a People, and, in its Conſequences, to the Perſons actuated by it, as when Obſcure and Low-minded Men are raiſed by the Favour of the Prince to unmerited Grandeur. We ſhall often find in the Conduct of a Man Nobly Deſcended, ſuch Greatneſs and Generoſity of Soul, as ſhews him born to be a *Jewel* in his *Prince's Crown*, and a *Bleſſing* to his *Native Country*. But as the firſt Riſe of the *Plebeian* is generally owing to the *Sport of Fortune*, or ſome *particular Exigence* of *State*, or the *Caprice* of the *Prince*, ſo his Empire in the Affections of his Maſter, is frequently improved and preſerved by adminiſtring to His Luxuries and Pleaſures, which too generally are oppoſite, and often fatal to the Liberties of the Subject.

SUCH

SUCH a Minister, as his Soul was not form'd for so exalted a Sphere, generally becomes giddy in it, and in Imitation of the blind Deity that had the greatest Share in his own Rise, generally scatters his Favours to Persons the most undeserving and most like to himself, and levels all his Rage and Fury at the Men who have Virtue enough to endeavour to stem the Torrent of his Vices, and to prevent the pernicious Consequences of his wicked Administration. And indeed the whole Tenor of his Actions naturally declares him at mortal Enmity with all Virtuous Men.

HIS *Ambition* increases with his *Power*, his *Avarice* with his *Wealth*, and his *Insolence* with both. Being arrived at the Highest Pitch of Grandeur, he grows restless and tumultuous as the stormy Ocean: Like an *Eccentrick Planet* he threatens Destruction to all around him; and is so *impatient* of Opposition, as to have Recourse to *any* Methods to destroy and ruin every Person he imagines capable to stand in the Way of his *Arbitrary Motions*.

*HAMAN* Lord in *Power* (as *Ahasuerus* was in *Name*) of One hundred twenty seven Provinces, raised to the exalted Height of Prime Minister to his Prince, and to be the Companion of his Pleasures, was an Illustrious Instance of the Pride and Revenge of such Ambitious Favourites. Observing that *Mordecai* the *Jew*, among the Croud of his servile Worshippers, paid him not that Reverence which he exacted from all the World, found as much Disturbance from so contemptible an Occasion, as he could possibly have felt from the greatest Disappointment in the Infancy of his Power; and to revenge the Indignity, procured

Edicts

Edicts to be iſſued out in his Maſter's Name (not of the *merciful Tenor* of the *Modern Bills* of *Pains* and *Penalties*, but) for the *intire Extirpation* of the whole *Jewiſh* Nation. But in the very Height of his Security, this exorbitant Exerciſe of his Power precipitated him from all his Glory, and by a righteous Judgment, he made his *Exit* from that Gallows which he had erected for *Mordecai*; and all his Riches, his Eſtate, and his very Palace were given to the Man he ſo much abhorr'd, and whoſe Fall he had ſo implacably meditated.

KINGDOMS and States have been always influenc'd by the Examples of their Governors; and according to the Genius of the Prince, the Manners of the People, and the Views of the Great Men, have been laudable or otherwiſe.

THE ſucceſſive Reigns of the Firſt, Second and Third *Edwards*, and the Second *Richard*, afford notable Inſtances of the Truth of this Obſervation. The *Engliſh* Glory was raiſed to a very high Pitch of Grandeur in the Reign of the Martial Prince *Edward* I. who triumph'd over all his Enemies, and added *Wales* and *Scotland* to the *Engliſh* Empire. In his Reign we read of no Paraſites or Sycophants, to intercept the Favours of the Sovereign from his People. That Glorious Prince was equally the Monarch of his *Miniſters* as of his *Dominions*, and gave, not received Laws as well to the *Greateſt*, as the *Meaneſt* of his Subjects.

TO the unhappy *Caernarvon* he left his Dominions, and a Situation of Affairs very Glorious and Advantageous.

tageous. But he could not transfer to him his Soul and his Conduct; and the Inglorious Reign of this inactive indolent Prince debas'd the *English* Name, as greatly as his illustrious Father had exalted it. Evil Ministers sprang up from the Weakness of the King, and the profligate *Peirce Gaveston* Lorded it as well over the Queen, and all the Nobility of the Land, as the Affections of his Master; and the Treasure of the Kingdom and the Properties of the Subject became Sacrifices to the Tyranny of this wicked Favourite. The *Scots* took up Arms, and discomfited his Forces, that headed by himself. Inundations, Famines, Pestilences were the Scourges of his Reign; and when this infamous Minion was taken off by a violent Death, the King gave up himself and his Kingdom to be plunder'd by the Two *Spencers*, whose Pride and Rapine were so unbounded, that many good Subjects wished rather to be plagued with *Gaveston* again. At last their Exorbitances ended in an ignominious Death, and the Deposition and Murder of their Unfortunate Master.

TO him succeeded the Victorious *Edward* III. who again retrieved the Glory of the *English* Nation, and made ample Reparation for the Blemishes of his Father's Reign. This Masculine Prince, in the very Infancy of his Age as well as Reign, gave happy Omens of his future Resolution and Capacity for Government in seizing on the Person of *Mortimer* the Favourite and Minion of the Queen his Mother, and sacrificing him to the *Manes* of his Murder'd Father, to the Resentment of a violated Nobility, and to appease the Clamours of an inraged injur'd Commonalty. He with his Glorious Son the Prince of *Wales*, the Companion

of

of his greateſt Exploits, triumph'd over all his Enemies Abroad, and reign'd in the Affections of all his Subjects at Home: Nor was there a Miniſter of State known for the greateſt Part of his 50 Years Reign, who purſued any other View, than the Glory of his Prince and the Good of his Country; ſo great was the Benefit of the *Example* of this Victorious Monarch.

FAR unworthy of the Reign of his Grandfather, or the Noble Deeds of his Renowned Father, were thoſe of *Richard* II. whoſe Weakneſs again produc'd the Riſe of Paraſites and Favourites, who by Degrees alienated the Affections of the Subjects from their Royal Maſter, and treading in the uſual Steps of all over-grown Miniſters, puſh'd the King on violent Counſels, and never ceaſed their Evil Practices, 'till they brought Deſtruction on themſelves, and involved their Sovereign in their Ruine; who was depoſed and baſely murder'd, and his Crown became the Inheritance of another Race of Princes: Who alſo, after Two Maſculine Reigns, by the Weakneſs of the Third, loſt the Crown and Empire to their braver Enemies.

IT is not my Intention to enumerate the Miſcarriages which are to be met with in the *Engliſh* Hiſtory, reſulting from the Weakneſs of former Princes, and the ſelfiſh Views of deſigning Miniſters. I would only obſerve for the preſent, That what the *Spencers*, the *Gaveſtons*, and *Mortimers* have done in *ſome* Reigns to aggrandize themſelves at the Expence of their Countries, and to the Abuſe of their Maſters, have been practiſed in *others* by the *Dudleys*, the *Carrs* and the *Villiers*. And if we look Abroad, we ſhall find no leſs pregnant Inſtances in other Nations;

tions; and in particular the *Guiſe*'s in *France*, and the *Alva*'s the *Ferdinando*'s, the *Simoni*'s, and the *Cacofago*'s in *Spain*, in the laſt Century, not to mention other neighbouring Countries, are kept in Countenance by the Practices of divers Great Men that now preſide in the Cabinets of certain Foreign Princes: With whoſe Characters the Hiſtorians of the next Age will, no doubt, be as free and impartial, as we of the preſent are with thoſe of their Predeceſſors.

IT may merit farther Obſervation, That although the Power of thoſe Grandees was capable to varniſh over, for a while, their heinous Crimes; and that there were not wanting Paraſites and Flatterers to reſemble their Patrons to the Greateſt and Beſt Patriots of preceding Ages, yet many of 'em liv'd to ſee the Time when their Actions were expos'd in their proper Colours, and they were obliged in a Moment, as it were, to diſgorge the Plunder of an Age; and then the lofty Fabrick which for many Years they had been rearing to the Clouds, and whoſe Walls were founded on the Fortunes, and cemented with the Blood of their Oppoſers, was at once tumbled down and laid level with the Duſt, and themſelves and Families bury'd in its Ruins.

UPON the Whole, this uſeful Reflexion will neceſſarily reſult: That howſoever formidable and menacing for a Time the Power of wicked Favourites has been to the Conſtitution of the Kingdom and Liberties of the Subject, and whatſoever Snares they have laid for the Ruin of their braveſt Oppoſers, it has, ſooner or later, pleaſed the Divine Providence to retribute upon their own Heads their evil Practices;

and no Examples are more frequent in Hiſtory, than thoſe of Great Men made Sacrifices after the very *ſame* Manner, and by the *ſame* Precedents whereby they have endeavour'd their own Security, and the Deſtruction of their Adverſaries. For it has been generally found, That vindictive Precedents are dangerous Weapons, which carry a *double Edge*, one for their *Contrivers*, as well as another for the *devoted Sacrifice*, and ought therefore to be equally avoided both in *Policy* and *Humanity*.

IN a Word, MODERATION is a Leſſon, of all others, the moſt Uſeful and Neceſſary to Men in Power. They are placed aloft on the Publick Theatre of Action, and all their Deeds will be ſcann'd with impartial, and, perhaps, unfavourable Eyes. Grandeur *naturally* creates Envy; and though Great Men, as has been already obſerved, never want their Flatterers and Adorers, even amongſt the greateſt Characters; yet as theſe Paraſites are only the *Creatures* of *Power*, ſo when *that* declines, they naturally fall off, and to clear themſelves, are generally the buſieſt Actors in the Tragedies of their late credulous Patrons.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

## NUMB. XXXVI.

*Et mala ſunt vicina bonis, errore ſub illo*
*Pro vitio virtus crimina ſæpe tulit.* OVID.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4. 1723.

THE following Letter from the Gentleman who in our former Papers ſtiles himſelf ORTHODOX, ſeems to be written with ſo good a Deſign, as intitles him to that diſtinguiſhing Character, and at the ſame Time, claims a Place in this Paper, in the Manner he himſelf is pleaſed to deſire: It being impoſſible but the Subject muſt be intirely agreeable to all who have at Heart the Honour of our Excellent Church and Conſtitution; and in the impartial Manner he propoſes, cannot be offenſive to any *True Briton.*

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

HAVING in Two former Letters inſtanc'd the reſtleſs Struggles of one Sect of Diſſenters from the Eſtabliſh'd Church, in order to be diſcharged from the *neceſſary* Obligations of the *State*, as before they were exempted from all *Eccleſiaſtical* Juriſdiction, I ſhall in this take the Liberty to ſet in a proper Light the Conduct of other principal *Separatiſts*; Whereby it will ſoon appear, that they come not behind their *Brethren* the *Quakers* in their Behaviour to the *Church*, though their Conſciences are not now altogether ſo *ſqueamiſh* with regard to the *State*.

IT would be an endleſs Taſk, and incongruous with my preſent Deſign, to enter into the full Merits of this Cauſe, or to deſcribe the numberleſs Sects into which the Church has been torn and divided by the Wilfulneſs and Pride of every Pretender to Reformation, when the *lateſt* Reformer diſdaining the Methods of the *preceding*, ſet up a Form and Diſcipline of his own, and contended for it to be the Pureſt, as his Scheme was moſt diſtant from Conformity with the Church of *Rome*. My Intention is only from Authentick Vouchers to trace Hiſtorically the Riſe of the principal Sects, and deduce an Account of their Practices and Pretences to the preſent Time, without *Invective* or *Partiality*, and with all poſſible *Brevity*.

THE

THE Limits of a ſingle Letter will not, however, be ſufficient for this Purpoſe, and I ſhall therefore ſend in two or three, what reſults to my Pen from this Subject, leaving it to your Choice whether you will be pleaſed ſtill to abridge them for one Paper, or give 'em more Room: Which I could almoſt flatter my ſelf in the Hopes of, when I conſider, that the Promoting the Cauſe of the Pureſt Church and Beſt Conſtitution in the World, is one avowed Deſign of your Excellent Paper.

IN the very Year (1541) that *Ignatius Loyola* was ſolemnly firſt choſen General of the *Jeſuits* Order, which he had founded, did *John Calvin*, after infinite Struggles, that had brought upon him a Three Years Exile, confirm his rigorous and arbitrary Diſcipline in *Geneva*, having firſt, by indirect Methods, obtain'd the Opinion of the *Helvetian* Churches in his Favour, againſt an Appeal to them by the Magiſtrates of that City, who beginning to find they had expelled *one* Pope to make Room for *another*, exerted themſelves againſt him. By this Means having in a manner, made himſelf both *Supreme Magiſtrate* and *Biſhop* of that Territory, he proceeded to extend his Dominion over the whole *Reformation*: And to ſhew what the World was to expect from *Presbytery*, began to intermeddle with the Affairs of other Churches, and to preſcribe his Diſcipline with ſo high a Hand, as if he was determined to arrogate to himſelf equal Authority to that pretended by the *Roman Pontiff*; " 'till at length, " (as the excellent *Hooker* obſerves) the Diſcipline " which was at the firſt ſo *weak*, that *without* the " Staff of *their* Approbation who were not ſubject

" unto it *themſelves*; it had not brought *others* under " Subjection, began now to challange *Univerſal Obe-* " *dience*, and to enter into open Conflict with thoſe " very Churches, which, in *deſperate Extremity* had " been *Relievers* of it." And in theſe its Infant Days of Power, to ſo inſolent a Height was it arrived, that one of *Calvin's* Diſciples, deſiring to have Leave to diſpute publickly at *Heidelburgh*, the Church whereof at that Time was both the Ornament and Bulwark of the Reformation, in Defiance both of Church and Government, he preſumed to aſſert, *That to a Miniſter with his Elderſhip, Power is given by the Law of God, to excommunicate whomſoever, yea, even Kings and Princes themſelves.* A Claim which had been ſo enormous in the Pope! and to which, however, they had frequent Recourſe both in Plea and Practice, as will abundantly appear in the Sequel.

IT is much to be doubted whether *Enthuſiaſm*, *Arrogance* or *Hypocriſy* had the greater Prevalence in their further Progreſs. But it was always obſervable, That they were the moſt *inſolent* Set of Men that ever appeared in the World to all Lawful Authority, and at the ſame Time, the *baſeſt Fawners* and *cringing Sycophants* to the Meaneſt among the Commonalty, as if they had ſet out avowedly to *fiſh in troubled Waters*, and to promote *Sedition* and *Rebellion*, by holding at their Diſpoſal the Affections of the *baſer Sort*, and defying *Princes*. But not much better could be expected from the Followers of a Man who founded his *rigid Diſcipline* and *uſurped Authority*, on the Depoſition and Baniſhment of the Lawful Sovereign of *Geneva*, and preſcribed and inforced

thoſe

thoſe Terms of Obedience and Slavery on his Fellow-Subjects which they never bore from their expulſed Prince? And here I cannot do better than to tranſcribe from the above-mentioned pious Author a few Inſtances of what I have aſſerted relating to their *Hypocriſy* and *Arrogance*.

'Where they found Men in *Diet*, *Attire*, *Furniture* of Houſe, or any other Way, Obſervers of *Civility*, and *decent Order*; ſuch they reproved as *carnally* and *earthly-minded*. If any Man were pleaſant, they would repeat with Sighs thoſe Words of our Saviour, *Woe to you which now laugh, for ye ſhall lament*. So great was their Delight to be *always in Trouble*, that they deemed thoſe who loved *quiet Lives*, to be in moſt dangerous Caſe. So oppoſite to *Cuſtom*, that when others appeared abroad in their *beſt Attire*, they would always ſhew themſelves in the *worſt*. Thought it *Prophaneneſs* to call the Days of the Week by their ordinary Names, and would diſtinguiſh them only by Numbers. Inſiſted, that ſince the Apoſtles Days, the Truth was never *before* ſincerely taught. Thought no other Writings in the World ſhould be ſtudied but the Scripture; ſo that one of their *Prophets* exhorting them to caſt away all Reſpects to *Humane Writings*; all that had any Books beſides the Bible, committed them publickly to the Flames. When they and their Bibles were alone together, what *fantaſtical Opinion* ſoever enter'd their Heads, they thought the *Spirit* taught them. Their *reſtleſs Levity* they interpreted to their *growing* in *ſpiritual Perfection*, and from *Faith* to *Faith*. By this Means, their Differences with themſelves grew in-

finite, ſo that there was hardly one amongſt them, the Forge of whoſe Brain was not poſſeſs'd with ſome *Special Myſtery*. Whereupon, although their mutual Contentions were moſt fiercely proſecuted amongſt themſelves, yet when they came to defend the Cauſe common to them all againſt the Adverſaries of their Faction, they had Ways to lick one another whole, the ſounder in their own Perſuaſion excuſing THE DEAR BRETHREN which were not *ſo far inlightned*, and profeſſing a Charitable Hope of the Mercy of God towards them, notwithſtanding their Swerving from him in ſome Things. Their own Miniſters they highly magnify'd, as Men whoſe *Vocation* was from *God*: The reſt their Manner was to term diſdainfully *Scribes* and *Phariſees*, and to account their *Calling* a *Humane Creature*, &c. *Baptiſm* adminiſter'd in the Church of *Rome*, they judged to be an *execrable Mockery*, and no Baptiſm; both becauſe the *Papal* Miniſters are wicked *Idolaters*, *lewd Perſons*, *Thieves*, and *Murderers*, *curſed Creatures*, *ignorant Beaſts*; and alſo for that to baptize belongeth to the Church of Chriſt only, whereas *Rome* is Antichriſt's Synagogue, &c. They preſumed to innovate the ſacred Scriptures themſelves; thinking it not ſafe to mention either *Body* or *Blood* in the Sacrament, but to abrogate both, and to uſe no Words but theſe, *Take, eat, declare the Death of our Lord. Drink, ſhew forth our Lord's Death.* The pretended End of their Civil Reformation was, that Chriſt might have Dominion over all; that no other might reign over Chriſtian Men but He; and no Sword be carry'd but His, the Sword of Spiritual

Excom-

Excommunication. For this Cauſe they inceſſantly labour'd to overturn the Seats of Magiſtery; in aboliſhing the Execution of Juſtice, becauſe Chriſt hath ſaid, *Reſiſt not Evil*; in FORBIDDING OATHS, the *neceſſary Means* of *Judicial Tryal*, becauſe Chriſt hath ſaid, *Swear not at all*; Finally, being then *poor* and *deſpicable* themſelves, they labour'd to promote a *Community of Goods*, becauſe Chriſt by his Apoſtles hath given ſuch an Example, to the End that Men might excel one another, not in Wealth, but in Virtue.

'THESE Men at the firſt, (continues my excellent Author) were only pity'd in their Error, and not much withſtood by any; The great *Humility*, *Zeal* and *Devotion* which appeared to be in them, was, in all Mens Opinion, a Pledge of their *Harmleſs Meaning*. The hardeſt that Men of ſound Underſtanding conceived of them, was but this; *O quam honeſta voluntate miſeri errant! With how good a Meaning do theſe poor Souls do Evil! Luther* made Requeſt to the Duke of *Saxony*, that within his Dominions they might be favourably dealt with and ſpared; for that their (Error exempted) they ſeemed otherwiſe right good Men. By means of which *merciful Toleration*, they gathered Strength much more than was ſafe for the State in which they lived. They had their ſecret Meetings and Aſſemblies in the Night, the People flocking to them by Thouſands. The Means whereby they both allured and retained ſo great Multitudes, were moſt effectual;

FIRST,

'*FIRST*, A wonderful *Shew* of Zeal towards God, 'wherewith they ſeemed to be even *rapt* in *every* '*Thing* they ſpake.

'*SECONDLY*, An *Hatred of Sin*, and a *ſingular* '*Love of Integrity*, which Men did think to be much 'more than ordinary in them, by Reaſon of the 'Cuſtom which they had to fill the Ears of the 'People with INVECTIVES againſt their *Au-* '*thorized Guides*, as well SPIRITUAL as 'CIVIL.

'*THIRDLY*, The bountiful Relief wherewith 'they eaſed the broken Eſtate of ſuch *needy Crea-* '*tures*, as were in that Reſpect the more apt to be 'drawn away.

'*FOURTHLY*, A tender Compaſſion which 'they were thought to take upon the *Miſeries* of the '*Common Sort*, over *whoſe Heads* their Manner was 'even to pour down *Showers of Tears* in complaining, '*That no Reſpect was had unto them*; *That their* '*Goods were devoured by wicked Cormorants*; *Their* '*Perſons had in Contempt*; *All Liberty, both Spiri-* '*tual and Temporal, taken from them*; *That it was* '*high Time for God now to hear their Groans, and to* '*ſend them Deliverance.*

'*LASTLY*, A cunning Sleight which they 'had to ſtroke and ſmooth up the Minds of their 'Followers, as well by appropriating unto them all 'the *favourable Titles*, the *good Words*, and the '*gracious Promiſes* in Scripture; as alſo by caſting 'the *contrary* always on the Heads of their Oppo-'ſites.

'WHERE-

'WHEREUPON the Peoples common Acclamations unto ſuch Deceivers, were: *Theſe are verily the Men of God! Theſe are his true and ſincere Prophets!* And if ſuch pretended Prophets ſuffer'd the Law, either for *Felony*, *Rebellion* or *Murder*, or any other Crime, the People lamented, that God took away his *moſt dear Servants* from them, and exclaim'd as if St. *Stephen* had been again martyr'd.

THIS excellent Author then judiciouſly obſerves, 'That it is impoſſible for the Wit of Man to imagine, what will grow out of ſuch Errors as go *masked* under the *Cloak of Divine Authority*, 'till *Time* hath brought forth the *Fruits* of them: For which Cauſe, ſays he, it behoveth *Wiſdom* to fear the *Sequels* thereof, even beyond all *apparent Cauſe of Fear*.' He then proceeds to give Inſtances of the Inſtability of thoſe Men proceeding from one Vice to another, and of their perverting the very Scriptures to defend their Violences and Errors.

'THESE Men, ſays he, in whoſe Mouths at firſt ſounded nothing but *Mortification of the Fleſh*, were come at length to think they might lawfully have *Six* or *Seven Wives* apiece. They who at firſt thought *Juſtice* itſelf to be *mercileſs Cruelty*, accounted at length their own Hands to be *ſanctify'd* with being imbru'd in *Chriſtian Blood*. They who at firſt were wont to beat down all *Dominion*, had at length both *Conſuls* and *Kings* amongſt *themſelves*. Finally, They who at firſt could not brook that any Man ſhould ſeek the Recovery of Goods injuriouſly taken or with-held from him, no not by

'by *Law*, were now grown to think they could 'not offer to God a more *acceptable Sacrifice*, than 'by turning their Adverſaries out of *Houſe* and '*Home*, and by inriching *themſelves* with all kind 'of *Spoil* and *Pillage*. Which Things being laid 'to their Charge, they had in Readineſs their An-'ſwer, *That now the Time was come, when, accord-'ing to our Saviour's Promiſe, The* MEEK ONES '*muſt inherit the Earth*; and *that their Title to 'their* Neighbours Goods *was the ſame which the* 'righteous Iſraelites *had to thoſe of the* wicked 'Egyptians.'

HE then proceeds to take Notice of their Opinion, then newly broach'd, of the *Unlawfulneſs of taking Oaths*, leſt they ſhould turn to the *Moleſtation* of their *Brethren*; 'The *next Neighbour* Opinion whereunto, 'ſays he, when *Occaſion* requireth, may follow for '*Diſpenſation with Oaths already taken.*' And then he breaks out into this elegant Exclamation: 'O 'merciful God! What Man's Wit, is there able to 'ſound the Depth of thoſe *dangerous* or *fearful* Evils 'whereinto our weak and impotent Nature is incli-'nable to ſink it ſelf, rather than to ſhew an *Ac-'knowledgment* of *Error* in that which once we 'have *unadviſedly* taken upon us to defend, againſt 'the *Streams*, as it were, of a contrary *Publick 'Reſolution!*

THIS ſhort Abſtract taken from the inimitable *Preface to* Hooker's *Eccleſiaſtical Polity*, (to which I refer for a fuller Account) will be ſufficient to ſhew the Riſe and Principles of theſe *Religion-Brokers*. My next, (in as conciſe a Manner as the Subject will bear)

bear) ſhall proceed to give an Authentick Hiſtory of their Tranſactions; whereby it will appear, that their Conſtant Practice has demonſtrated all that has been here ſaid of 'em, and much more, to be true.

*I am,* SIR,

*Your Admirer and Humble Servant,*

ORTHODOX.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXXVII.

*Quod licet ingratum eſt, quod non licet acrius urit.*
OVID.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7. 1723.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

HAVING in my laſt given ſome Account of the *Principles* and firſt Settings out of the *Diſſenters* of different Denominations, I ſhall now, without farther Introduction or Apology, proceed to ſhew how conformable their *Practices* have always been to their Beginning, confining myſelf to the Kingdoms of *England* and *Scotland*, although I might eaſily evince, that the *ſame Cauſes* have conſtantly produced the *ſame Effects* in all other Countries where ever they appear'd.

*CALVIN* had no ſooner received Intimation of an Order given in the Reign of *Edward* VI. to Archbiſhop

biſhop *Cranmer*, Biſhop *Ridley*, and other Prelates, to draw up a Form for adminiſtring the Sacrament in both kinds, than he poſted away Letters to *England*, officiouſly to offer his Aſſiſtance. But thoſe pious Prelates knowing the Temper of the Man, and how pragmatically he had behaved himſelf where-ever he had been ſuffer'd to intermeddle, and having no Reaſon to conceive ſo *good* an Opinion of *his* Abilities, or ſo *ill* a one of their own, as if they could not do without him; and knowing beſides that he differed in ſome *Doctrinal Points* from all the *Antient Fathers*, and had obtruded upon the Church of God ſuch a *Diſcipline* as was never heard of in Antiquity; excuſed themſelves, with the greateſt Civility and Condeſcenſion, from accepting his Offer.

THE *Geneva Pontiff* hereupon ſeem'd determined to oppoſe and decry the *Engliſh* Reformation, and for that purpoſe beſtirred himſelf to influence *Martin Bucer* and *Peter Martyr*, (Two learned Foreigners ſent for over to *England*) the latter of whom he found pretty much at his Devotion, and by that Means, he and his violent Diſciple and Succeſſor *Beza*, found Opportunity to lay the Foundations of the Schiſm which has ſince ſo miſerably divided the *Engliſh* Church. For Brevity ſake, I ſhall paſs over their frequent Attempts to introduce their *Diſcipline*, and the Diſturbances given to Queen *Elizabeth* by *Calvin*, *Beza*, *Knox*, and their Diſciples, quite contrary to the Opinion and Chriſtian Moderation of thoſe far more eminent Reformers, *Bullinger* and *Gualter*; their violent Attacks upon the Epiſcopal Dignity, and Endeavours to ſet up *Presbytery* above *Church* and *State*; their Diſputes of the Queen's Authority, tho' aſſiſted

assisted by the Parliament, to decree *Rites* and *Ceremonies*; the almost blasphemous Manner of their asserting the Doctrine of *Predestination*; and innumerable other Insolences and high Pretensions, which the *Roman* Pontiffs, in their greatest Elevation of Power, never exceeded (which shewed their Cotemporary Bretheren the *Jesuits* had no small Hand in their Proceedings:) From all which, Queen *Elizabeth* became fully apprized of the *violent* and *untractable* Temper of those Men: She had remarked their Obstinacy in the Reign of her Brother, and could not but observe, that their Principles *naturally* tended to make themselves independent of the *State*, and to *unhinge* the *Frame* of all *Government*; and the several Instances of *Calvin*'s intemperate Zeal with regard to her late Sister, were also fresh in her Memory, who in one of his Discourses had called her, The *Queen of Hell*, and declared, That *she exceeded the very Devils in Hell. Proserpinæ quæ hodie illic superat omnes Diabolus*, are his very Words; and whose Disciples, instead of the Christian Doctrine of *Praying for Enemies*, openly and frequently prescribed to the Almighty in their Prayers, *That he would either turn her Heart, or put an End to her Days*.

*KNOX* had also taken Care, though contrary to his Intention, to fill her Mind with Indignation against so *seditious* a Set of Men; having, in the *Intemperance* of his Zeal, written a Letter to Secretary *Cecil*, traiterously denying the Queen's Right to the Crown on the sole Account of her *Sex*; but with the most pragmatical Impudence offering to *dispense* with her Reign, though, as he says, 'twas against the Laws of God that Women should Rule, and to *acknowledge* her

her *Authority, if, disclaiming the Title she claimed according to the Customs, Laws and Ordinances of Men, she would confess, That the extraordinary Dispensations of God's great Mercy did make that lawful in her, which both Nature and God's Laws did deny in all Women besides*; threatning her, *That if she adhered to her natural Title, such foolish Presumption would grievously offend God's Supreme Majesty; and that her Ingratitude in that kind should not long lack Punishment*: And to the Queen herself he afterwards presumed to write, reproaching her, *That for fear of her Life, she had declined from God, bowed to Idolatry, and gone to Mass during the Persecution of God's Saints in her Sister's Reign.*

THESE Insolences, so openly avow'd and insisted on, could not but fill the Mind of that Glorious Queen with a Dislike of their Principles; And finding her determin'd to promote an *Uniformity* in Worship, the Brethren turn'd their Eyes towards *Scotland*; the Affairs of which Kingdom at that Time became so confus'd, as gave those pretended Saints the desired Opportunities to exert themselves, and by pulling off the Mask, to shew the whole World at once, What were their Designs and Views; That Sedition and Rebellion were the *Genuine* Fruits of *Presbytery*; and and that the Exercise of that very Power which they held *sinful* in the *Pope*, or their *Sovereign*, or the *Bishops*, became *sanctify'd* in their Hands, and their undoubted Right. The Truth whereof, a brief Account of the Transactions of the Kirk of *Scotland* under the Influences of *Knox*, will sufficiently demonstrate.

AFTER this Incendiary had been forced to flee from *Germany* for High Treaſon againſt the Emperor, wandering about from *Geneva* backwards and forwards to other Countries, he at laſt arrived in *Scotland*, at the Time that that Kingdom was miſerably divided by the Contentions amongſt the *Old Nobility*, and ſoon became the Head of a Party, that made itſelf formidable to the Government, by joining with the *Diſaffected*, and ſcorning to be ſubject to the Laws of the State, or any others but thoſe of its own making.

THE Queen Regent, at the Beginning of the Reformation, though a *Roman* Catholick, made no Scruple to allow them the Bible in their own Language: but not being able to eſcape their virulent Reflections, and they riſing in Tumults againſt her, and even proceeding to menace her Perſon, ſhe condeſcended to their further Demands, upon their Acknowledgment, *That the Redreſs of all Grievances, both Eccleſiaſtical and Civil, belonged in Right to her*, and gave them Liberty to uſe their Prayers and Services in the Vulgar Tongue. But growing from one Degree to another on the Queen's Conceſſions, ſhe found herſelf obliged to declare, that ſhe could not keep her Promiſe to People who ſhew'd that nothing would ſatisfy their increaſing Demands; Whereupon they aſſured her to her Face, *That they would no longer acknowledge her Authority, but from that Time renounced all Obedience to her*, and accordingly departed in Tumults, and demoliſhed the Monaſtries and Cathedral Churches at *Edinburg*, *Perth*, St. *Andrews*, *Scoon*, *Sterling* and other Places, being animated thereto by *Knox*, who in a Sermon for

for that Purpoſe incited them from our Saviour's purging the Temple. And in another Sermon preach'd at *Craile*, he ſtirred them up to Rebellion, declaring, that no Faith was to be repoſed in the Promiſes of the Queen, and that no Tranquility could be expected till one of the Parties was Maſter. The People being fir'd with his Seditious Harangues, had immediate Recourſe to Arms, and ſo diſtreſſed the Queen, that ſhe was forced to fly to *Dunbar* for Safety, and there offered them the free Uſe of their Religion, except where her Court was; which not ſatisfying the *Congregators*, as they called themſelves, by the Inſtigation of *Knox* and *Willock* their Miniſters, they, contrary to all their former ſolemn Proteſtations, both by Letters and Proclamations, depoſed the Queen; who not long after, in the Year 1560, dy'd of Grief.

THEY then procured a Parliament, which aboliſhed the Pope's Authority and the Maſs, and ratify'd their Confeſſion of Faith, which they ſent over to *France* to be confirmed by their Queen, whoſe Husband, the *French* King, dying preſently after, they deſired her to come over to *Scotland*, and ſettle among them. To which that Princeſs conſenting, *Knox* reſolved to make ſure Work before her Arrival, and procured an Order for demoliſhing to the Ground all Abbey-Churches and Cloiſters, telling them in a Sermon, *That the ſure Way to baniſh the Rooks, was to pull down their Neſts.* And ſo furiouſly was this Order executed, that hardly a Church eſcaped ſome Tokens of their Rage, being either defaced or deſtroyed; the very Sepulchres of the Dead were not ſpared; Holy Veſſels, Timber, Lead and Bells,

were ſold; the Regiſters and Libraries burnt; and, in a Word, the whole Country was cover'd with Deſolation.

IN 1561. arrived the unfortunate *Mary* Queen of *Scots* in her Hereditary Dominions, and that ſhe might gain the Affections of her People, ſhe condeſcended to the Alterations made in Religion, only reſerving to herſelf the Privilege of having the Uſe of her own Service, and Maſs in Private. But ſo far were theſe turbulent Spirits from being ſatisfy'd with this gracious Condeſcention, that their Preachers in their Sermons had the Inſolence openly to condemn this Liberty of their Sovereign, as intolerable and unlawful, and went ſo far as to diſpute in their Conventicles the *Caſe of Obedience to Princes*, and to ſend to their Brethren in *Geneva* to determine the Point in their Favour: And to crown all, they enter'd into an Aſſociation, whereby they agreed to *repute whatever Moleſtations or Troubles were given to any of their Members, by whomſoever, as committed againſt their whole Body.* By which means, ſeveral of the Male-contented Nobility join'd with them for Protection, and render'd them ſtill more ſtrong and formidable.

AND now to ſo great a Height of Impudence and Folly were they arrived, that they preſented Articles of Reformation againſt the Cloaths of their Sovereign and her Ladies, as too fine; for which Preſumption being check'd by the Earl of *Murray*, *Knox* in a Rage, forbad him (in a Letter) to meddle with the *Kirk* or *his* Affairs. And ſoon after, the *Presbytery*, not being conſulted about the Queen's Intention to marry the Lord *Darnley*, *Knox*, with the higheſt Inſolence

ſolence, took upon him in all his Diſcourſes to inveigh againſt the Match and the Queen; who thereupon ſending for him, mildly, and with Tears flowing from her Eyes, expoſtulated with him, *How low her Princely Nature had often deſcended, adviſing him to Moderation, and ſhe would omit no Means that lay in her Power to make them quiet, and eſtabliſh their Security*; adding, *That ſhe could not without much Grief obſerve, That the more ſhe was willing to reſtrain the Puniſhments of their Contempt of her Perſon and Authority, the more Liberty they took, and the more impoſed on her Goodneſs.*

THE ſawcy Traytor, (for what better Name did he deſerve?) in whom ſeem'd Epitomiz'd the whole implacable Spirit of the *Geneva* Faction, inſolently anſwer'd, *That He had had too much Patience in ſuffering Abominations: That if he took Liberty of Speech in the Pulpit, ſhe might take it as ſhe pleas'd; ſince there he had no Superior but God; and that his* GIFTS *made him equal to any of her* PEERS. And as for her Weeping, the vile Enthuſiaſt ſaid, *He could better ſuſtain her Tears, than the Trouble of his Cauſe, or to betray the Commonwealth.* Nor durſt the Queen queſtion him for his Arrogance, knowing the Strength of his Faction; And he proceeded to declare in his Sermons to the Publick, *That the Land muſt lament for the Sins of the Queen*; and comparing her to *Simon Magus*, urg'd it *to be impoſſible that her Sins could be forgiven her, and that it was* REBELLION *in her not to turn Proteſtant.* In this Manner could this fiery Spirit exert himſelf in Defiance of his Duty to his Prince, in Breach of all Laws *Divine* and *Humane*; and in Oppoſition to

the Precepts of that *Holy Geſpel* which the whole Sect pretended to hold ſo Sacred, and which ſo ſtrictly enjoyns *Submiſſion* to the *Supreme Powers*. And this was the Sect, and theſe the Men, who have rail'd with ſuch Vehemence againſt the Power of the Pope, and the Authority of Biſhops; for no other End, than to eſtabliſh, according to the *Geneva* Diſcipline, a Pope in every Pariſh far more *abſolute* and *independant* of the *State*, than ever the *Roman Pontiff* pretended out of his own *Temporality*. And theſe are the Men who have ſo often reproach'd and vilify'd the Lawful and Nationally-eſtabliſh'd Clergy of *England*, on Pretence that they aim'd at an *Independence* of the *State* in *Spirituals!* And had Queen *Elizabeth* proceeded to the greateſt Rigors in inforcing Uniformity of Worſhip and Conformity to her Laws, ſhe would have been ſufficiently juſtify'd by the abominable Behaviour of theſe *Diſciplinarians* in her Neighbour Kingdom.

BUT to proceed as briefly as poſſible: The Brethren, in an Aſſembly held at *Edinburgh*, drew up a Petition, which, among other Things, inſiſted, *That the Queen and all her Family ſhould renounce Popery, and that, without Exception of Quality or Degree, all ſhould be puniſhed who refuſed Compliance.* To which that Princeſs patiently anſwer'd, *That ſhe had been educated in the* Roman *Catholick Religion, and did believe it was grounded on God's Word; and that therefore, as ſhe freely gave Liberty of Conſcience to all who were of a contrary Opinion, ſhe hoped her Subjects would not deal harder by her than ſhe did by them.*

BUT

BUT this mild and gracious Anſwer was far from influencing their ſtubborn Spirits to Peace. On the contrary, the Queen's Marriage with Lord *Darnley* taking Effect, and he being declared King, they flew to Arms; and obliged the New King in his own Defence to raiſe Troops. But before any Hoſtilities, he was reſolved to try to ſoften their Spirits, and condeſcended to appear at their Worſhip, and to hear *Knox* Preach at *Giles's Kirk* at *Edinburgh*. But was there affronted and told to his Face by that Incendiary, *That for the Sins of the People, God had given them Women and Boys to rule over them* (the New King being but Twenty-one) and he continued railing againſt the Adminiſtration with the utmoſt Virulence.

AFTER this, the barbarous Murder of the King occaſioning Tumults, and the Kirk Party endeavouring villainouſly to faſten the Fact on the unhappy Queen, a Civil War enſued, wherein the Queen being worſted, they ſeized on her Perſon, and compelled her to reſign her Title to her Infant Son, then about a Year old; and to make ſure Work, *Knox* and other Miniſters, endeavour'd to perſuade the Leaders of the Rebels to put her to Death, as well as to depoſe her. But the Queen making her Eſcape, raiſed ſome Forces, and being again worſted, fled into *England* for Refuge; and after Eighteen Years cloſe Impriſonment, occaſion'd by Miſunderſtandings between the two Queens, to the Surprize of the whole World, ſhe loſt her Head; to which ſtrange Fact, the Inſtigation of her Subjects of the *Kirk Party*, principally contributed.

I AM afraid I ſhall appear too prolix, and take up too much of your excellent Paper; But there is ſuch a vaſt Field of Matter, and the Behaviour of theſe Hypocritical Men in all Ages from their firſt Origine, affords ſuch flagrant Inſtances of their merely *Outſide Pretenſions* to Godlineſs, and the rebellious Spirit which ſeems inherent to their Principles, that I know not how to confine myſelf to narrow Bounds. But when 'tis conſider'd, That by your Means, in this Critical Juncture, When the *Diſſenters* boaſt of the Favours by which they are diſtinguiſh'd from *other* and *better* Subjects; When their *paſt* Seditions and Violences ſeem to be not only forgiven, but forgotten, notwithſtanding their re-iterated Provocations, and that on all Occaſions from their *Conventicles* they ſtill continue to exclaim againſt and revile the *Diſcipline* and *Members* of the *Eſtabliſh'd Church*; When that Excellent Church —— But no more! leſt while I reflect upon the criminal Behaviour of the Sectaries, I may ſeem to fall into their Error, and appear leſs Reſpectful to Superiors than my Principles oblige from me: I ſhall only add, That in ſuch a Juncture, I hope the Importance of the Subject will be my Excuſe, if I treſpaſs a little more on your Goodneſs than I at firſt intended, eſpecially when the General Approbation your Paper meets with, is another Inducement, as it ſeems to promiſe ſomething like an *Immortality* to the Subjects it contains. My next Letter ſhall, however, conclude the Trouble, from,

SIR,

*Your Humble Servant,*

ORTHODOX.

# THE

# True Briton.

IN

Two VOLUMES.

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## VOL. II.

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# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXXVIII.

*Vendidit hic Auro Patriam,* ——
—— *Fixit Leges pretio atque refixit.* VIRG.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11. 1723.

IT is a Remark well worthy the Attention of all *Ages* and of all *Countries*, that the Poet among Thoſe whom he judges to deſerve the *worſt* Place in *Hell*, has number'd ſuch as have *ſacrific'd* their *Country* to *private Proſit*, or procur'd *Laws* to be *paſs'd* or *repeal'd*, by the Force of *Bribery*.

THE Commentators have been pleaſed to tell us, that the former Part of the Satire is levell'd at *Julius Cæſar*, who by a large Price brought over *Curio* and a great Number of the Patricians into the Meaſures that laid the Foundation of his Tyranny. But, with Submiſſion to their Wiſdom, *Virgil* had too many Obligations to *Auguſtus Cæſar*, to glance, in ſuch an invidious

various Manner at the Memory of the Man, to whom his Benefactor owed his Title; and beſides, they ſeem not to have remember'd, with what Veneration the Poet had elſewhere ſpoken of the *Deification* of *Julius*, and of the *Star* which was acknowledged to be *his*.

I AM very apt to think, the Sarcaſm was more general and extenſive; *ROME* had her *Plunderers* and *Betrayers*; and whenever a *corrupt Faction* got the Upper-hand, her own *Treaſury* was made the Inſtrument of overthrowing her *Liberties*.

I CANNOT look back upon the State of that *turbulent Republick*, without ſecretly congratulating *theſe Iſlands* upon the Advantages which we enjoy above Her. The *Miniſters* there were generally *choſen* by *Corruption*, and *ſupported* in their Office by the *Sword*: They came to Power with no Views but of ſatisfying their Avarice; and had no Regards, or Tenderneſs for their Country, which were not overſway'd by ſordid and ſhameful Intereſts.

*ENGLAND*, on the other Hand, can never be ſubject to theſe *iniquitous* Practices, but ſits above the Hazard of *Abuſe* from Thoſe, who are made the *Truſtees* of her Liberties. Our *Miniſters* are always appointed by the *Wiſdom* of our *King*, aſſiſted by his Council, and who is always to be ſuppoſed the *Father of his Country*: They are pick'd out from amongſt ſuch, whoſe *high Births* make them incapable of *mean* and *abject* Thoughts; and whoſe Paternal Fortunes, and vaſt Affluence, have ever made them Strangers to Want, and therefore not to be byaſs'd to Treachery,

chery. Our *Places* are diſpoſed of to Men that are the *Ornaments* of their own Dignity; to Men, that have the *Welfare* of the *Kingdom* wholly at Heart; and who accept of *Offices*, only to do the neceſſary *Drudgery* of the State, and neither to *amaſs Eſtates* from their Service, nor *aggrandize* any *Branches* of their Family. Hence it happens that *ENGLAND* can never be infamous for a *SEJANUS*, who roſe from the Dunghill to graſp all Power, and make a *Cypher* of his Emperor; and whoſe *working* Wickedneſs had generally a double *Plot* upon his *Prince* and the *Subject*.

IT is the peculiar Happineſs of theſe Climes, that tho' we are celebrated for producing *Stateſmen*, our greateſt Honour is from the Number of our PATRIOTS. What is This, but ſaying, in other Words, that though we are renown'd for *Wit* and *Genius*, yet we ſhine out more in *native Honeſty*?

I HAVE obſerv'd in ſome Companies (of whoſe good Senſe, or good Principles, I cannot judge too favourably) that a due Diſtinction is not made betwixt the Words *Stateſman* and *Patriot*, but they have bene taken and uſed as Terms *ſynonymous*. I look upon it therefore the Duty of a TRUE BRITON to undeceive his Countrymen, who are ſo ill acquainted with the *Analogy* of Words and Things; and to ſhew, there have been many *Patriots* among us, who never were called forth into the Rank of *Stateſmen*; as, on the contrary, we have had many eminent *Stateſmen*, who never, in a ſingle Action of their Lives, deſerved the Stile of *Patriots*.

I HAVE

I HAVE drawn up a Definition to myſelf of theſe Two diſtinct Characters, and in what Lights I think they are both to be view'd by the Publick.

A STATESMAN, as the Name properly implies, is One, who by being perfectly acquainted with the *Laws* of *Nature* and *Nations*, knows how to act for the *Intereſt* and *Security* of his *Country*, knows how to protect her from the *Deſigns* and *Incroachments* of *Foreign Powers*, and how to keep the Ballance at Home betwixt *private Property*, and the *Prerogative* of the *Crown*.

WHENEVER ſuch a Man ariſes in the State, and has Honeſty equal to his Capacity, he attracts the moſt ſolemn Veneration, and is looked upon as the Guardian of the Realm; the whole Proſperity of the Land is imputed to the Wiſdom of his Counſels; and upon every Emergency of Danger and Diſadvantage, the Eyes of the whole People are turn'd upon him for Redreſs.

BUT a *Stateſman* too, in the *Reverſe* of his Character, is to be conſider'd as a *Great Miniſter*, in whom there may be no Neceſſity to ſuppoſe the ſame *political* Knowledge, or *active* Honeſty. He may be one that having, perhaps, the Adminiſtration of the *Treaſury*, or *Revenues* of a Kingdom in his Hands, and having withal a *corrupt* Soul, may have *Intereſts* diſtinct from thoſe of the *Publick*. The Nature and Convenience of his *Employments* may make him a *Property* to the Meaſures of the *Court* and its *Party*; and then, of Conſequence, the *Province* and *Addreſs* of carrying Matters in a Senate, will ſway much more with

with him, than any Consideration of the *General Welfare*.

IF ever we should be curst with such a *Statesman*, he will be mark'd out with Universal *Odium*, and have the Sentiments of the whole Nation center in the Wishes of his *Downfal*. I could expatiate on this Side of the *Statesman*'s Character, but I content myself only with a Sketch of its *Out-Lines*, and shall not envy any One the Pleasure of giving it the finishing Strokes.

THE *PATRIOT* is far from being a Character of such *ambiguous* Interpretation; his Interests are interwoven with and attach'd to Those of his Country; and were it possible he could depart from this Principle, he would, from that Moment, forfeit the Name and Style of a *Patriot*. He quits the calm Retreats of Life, and intermixes with *Faction*, and the *Embroilments* of the State, only *because his Country needs his Service*: The Promotion of her Advantages, the Defence of her Privileges, and repressing the Growth of Court-Oppressions, are his Study and Efforts. He would scorn to give up the *meanest* Branch of *Property* to the *largest Bribe* from the Hand of Corruption; but chuse rather to fall with his *Country*, and the *Comfort* of an *unblemish'd Integrity*.

IN short, He is the direct *Opposite* to the Description of the *bad Statesman*; the Pomp and Profit of Place and Promotion cannot seduce him to commit an Injustice: The other, who has only Ambition and Avarice at Heart, is merely a *Court-Sponge*, that, as

*Shake-*

*Shakespear* elegantly Phraſes it, *ſoaks up the King's Countenance, His Rewards, His Authorities.* I believe every TRUE BRITON will join with me in the Wiſh, That if we ever ſee ſuch a *Miniſter* in *ENGLAND*, we may go on to ſay in the Words of that Poet, *But ſuch Officers do a King beſt Service in the End: He keeps them like an Apple in the Corner of his Jaw, firſt mouth'd, to be laſt ſwal-low'd: When He needs what they have glean'd, it is but ſqueezing them, and* Spunge, *they ſhall be dry again.*

IT is certainly the Nobleſt *Reſumption* that a *Prince* can make, and the Nobleſt *Reſentment* that a *Parliament* can ſhew, to ſtrip a wicked overweening *Favourite*, that has *proſtituted* his Maſter's *Honour* and *good Name*, to give a Varniſh and Sanction to *vile Purpoſes*; that has converted the *Publick Coffers* to his own *Patrimony*, and grown *Great* by the *Abuſe* of Power, and flagrant *Plunder* of the Republick. Whenever ſuch Monſters have appeared in *England*, they have not deſcended to the Grave in the Poſſeſſion of their ill-gotten Treaſure. The *Spenſers*, *Gaveſton*, and *Wolſey*, ſtand out, on our Records, as *Sea-Marks* to ambitious Stateſmen! — There have been too, ſome *later* Inſtances of *National Reprizals*, but I chooſe to converſe only with *diſtant* Authorities.

I DOUBT not but whenever Kings are injured in themſelves, or People, they have as quick a Senſe of it, as the meaneſt *Malecontent* in their Dominions: and that they would as readily *caſhier* a Servant who abuſes them, as their Subjects wiſh to ſee ſuch an one *caſhier'd*; but the Fear of having an Office fill'd up

with

with one *worse* than the *Predecessor*, makes them often wink at Offence, and not provoke worse Consequences by an unlucky Change.

THIS brings to my Mind a facetious Fable of the late Sir *Roger L'Estrange*, with which, whether it be applicable or not, I shall take the Privilege of concluding this Essay.

'A *MILLER*, that was try'd and condemn'd for '*couzening* his Master, thought it very hard, he said, '*for a Man to suffer for what he did in the Exercise of* '*his Calling*. As he was mounting the Ladder, his 'Master whisper'd him to recommend some *honest* 'Miller to him that might be *trusted* when he was 'gone. The Fellow, that was upon the Point of being 'truss'd up, took it upon his Death, That he did not 'know so much as one Man of the *Trade*, whom he 'could fairly put into his Hand. *Nay, then*, says his 'Master, *I had e'en as good keep to a Knave I am* '*acquainted with, as go farther and fare worse*. So 'in the Conclusion, he gave the Wretch his Pardon, 'and Leave to couzen him over again.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XXXIX.

*——— Sapiens uno minor eſt Jove; dives,*
*Liber, honoratus, pulcher; Rex denique Regum.* HOR.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14. 1723.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

THE *Whigs* and *Tories* mutually accuſe one another as a reſtleſs People, prone to Novelty and Change, partial and uneaſy under every Adminiſtration: No wonder then that Foreigners are ſo liberal in beſtowing Characters of that Kind upon the whole Nation: But I will venture to ſay, They are greatly miſtaken; for there is not a more Ingenuous People under the Sun than the *Generality* of the *Engliſh*; who are ſo very far from being fond of Innovations, that they will bear with many Inconveniencies and Oppreſſions before they complain, and are always pleaſed with being *undeceived* and *diſabuſed*.

'TIS very true, that the Unhappy Diviſions among us have given Riſe to an unaccountable Prejudice in each

each Party againſt the other; and hence Great Men labour under no ſmall Difficulties when they ſucceed to the Places of thoſe of the oppoſite Side. But that that this Prejudice takes not ſo deep a Root in us as to obſcure the good and virtuous Actions of any Man in the Service of the Publick, of what Party ſoever he be, is evident from the Unanimous Concurrence of both, in giving Praiſe where it is juſtly due.

TO prove it is ſo with the *Tories*, I will only mention One or Two Inſtances (and no Doubt but Parallels may be given of the like Ingenuity in the *Whigs*) It is very well known, That the Lord COWPER came not to the Seals without a great deal of Prejudice from the *Tory* Party in General, among whom, I believe, there was not one but malign'd him. But how long did this Scene continue? He had ſcarcely preſided in that high Station One Year, before the Scales became even with the Univerſal Applauſe and Approbation of both Parties. All Signs of Prejudice were removed; and *Tories* and *Whigs* join'd in Admiration of his moſt excellent Qualities. There was not the leaſt Mark of *Party-Rage*, *Raſhneſs*, *Rigour*, or *Impatience*, to be ſeen or trac'd throughout all his Conduct in this Critical Branch of his High Office; for which he ſhewed ſuch a Maſterly Genius and uncommon Abilities, that made eaſy and natural to him the great Task of diſpenſing Juſtice; which, like the Sun, he diffus'd with equal Luſtre on all, without Regard to Quality or Diſtinction. No wonder, then, that ſo general a Diſcontent appear'd on his Reſigning the Seals.

ANOTHER Inſtance of this kind appears in my Lord Chief Juſtice KING, who was preferred to the *Common Pleas*, under yet greater Diſadvantages than my Lord *Cowper* to the Seals; for his great Predeceſſor had the Happineſs, as a Judge between Man and Man, to be univerſally admired and beloved by both Parties; ſo that the Difficulty of pleaſing after ſo able a Man ſeem'd in a manner inſuperable; for my Lord Chief-Juſtice labour'd not only under the Prejudice which one Party had entertain'd againſt him as ſuppoſing he differ'd from them in Principles of Government; but the united good Opinion of both Parties, ſo juſtly conceived in Favour of his Predeceſſor's great Qualifications and Merit; which very few of either Side expected could be ever equall'd by any Perſon that might ſucceed to his Place in this Age.

SO hard is the Fate of a Succeſſor to a Man of Great Eminence, as in this Caſe, that it is not ſufficient for him to attain to an *Equality* with his *Predeceſſor*, but he muſt even *excel*, or at leaſt be thought to do ſo, before he can be admitted to an *equal Share* of *Applauſe*; Yet, under all theſe Difficulties (which would have overwhelmed another) with the Eyes of all the Kingdom upon him, hath this *Truly Great Man* acquitted himſelf in this High Office, to the univerſal Satisfaction of *both Parties*; contrary to the *Expectations* of the *One*, and even beyond the *Hopes* of the *Other*: And if he had not been indeed a Prodigy of Learning and Wiſdom, it would hardly have been poſſibly for him to ſurmount ſo many Diſadvantages, and to appear in the ſame illuſtrious Light with my Lord *Trevor*.

TO

TO draw a Parallel between these *Two Eminent Judges*, is not my present Purpose: But this I may venture to say, That our Country can boast of few Instances where *Two* such worthy Persons were *immediate Predecessor* and *Successor*, especially where a *Difference* of *Principle* is supposed: And it would be equally *Honourable* to the *Prince* and *Province*, as well as *Happy* for the *Subjects* in general, if all Dignities were succeeded to with so much *Approbation* and *Merit*: What I would endeavour to shew, is, That neither *Whig* nor *Tory* are so *irreconcilably* prejudic'd to *Opinion* as they represent each other to be. And that a Man of *Probity* and *Virtue*, of whatever Party he may be reputed, ingages the *general Approbation* of *both*.

IF, after their Example, all Great Men would conduct themselves in their respective Offices, all *Distinctions* and *Party-Quarrels* would *gradually* subside: And if in Places so Critical, where the Actions of Great Men are subject to be *misconstrued* and *obnoxious* to *Censure*, (and particularly in the Cases of all such as have *Judgments* given *against* them) the *Approbation* and *Good Will* of the *Generality* may be, notwithstanding, attracted; It can't be esteem'd any Matter of Difficulty for those to acquire the like good Fortune, who have the Honour to *preside* in *Stations* where their Actions are *less liable* to be *scann'd* and *observ'd*.

BUT such has been the Unhappiness of these Nations, that *Party Prejudices* have been industriously fomented and kept up by *Designing Men*, who wanting

*True Vertue* and *Merit* to render themſelves conſiderable, have formerly had Recourſe to *indirect Methods* of *Party* and *Confuſion*, to recommend themſelves to *Places* and *Preferments*.

SO artfully have theſe unhappy Diſtinctions been Spirited up among us by ſuch Men; That there is hardly a Place even in *Low Life*, but is contended for by Candidates of *different Principles*, who obtain not the Suffrages of the Electors from their *Qualifications*, or *good Lives* and *Characters*, but from their being of this or that Party; And I have known the Election of a *Pariſh Beadle* carry'd on with as much *Violence* and *Rage* as that for a *Member of Parliament* or *Sheriff* of *London*.

THERE is another *Evil of Party*, which often leads to Conſequences of the moſt pernicious Tendency; and that is, When a Man of *Narrow Abilities* ſucceeds to a *good* and *able Miniſter*, and finds he falls ſhort of his Predeceſſor in the *General Opinion* of Mankind, he never fails by his Emiſſaries to inculcate to his own Party, that it is only owing to the *Prejudice* and *Partiality* of the *oppoſite Side*; and ſo renders it neceſſary for them to cry up and eſpouſe a Creature of their own raiſing; who will not fail, in his Turn, to pleaſure *his Benefactors*, by *partial Offices*, and *Diſtinctions* derogatory of *Juſtice* and *Honour*.

THESE were the Misfortunes of *former Times*, when Parties took their firſt Riſe, and Nature dealt more *niggardly* in the *Endowments* of *Great Men*, who from the Neceſſity of Affairs were often oblig'd to appear

pear *out of their Elements*, and to act in *Stations* to which their *Talents* were very *unequal*. But in this *Golden Age*, Nature has been ſo *bountiful*, to our Great Men, that we find them bleſt with Capacities and Abilities to diſcharge the Duties of any High Station whatſoever; nay, of managing *different Branches* of *Buſineſs* at *once*, which heretofore requir'd Men of *different Qualifications* and *Studies*. The frequent *Interchange* of *Places* among our preſent Grandees, and the vaſt *Weight* and *Variety* of *Buſineſs* that lies upon *ſome* of them, very manifeſtly prove the Truth of this Obſervation; and will no doubt effectually tend to the *utter Diſſolution* of *Party Prejudice*.

*I am, S I R,*

*Your humble Servant,*

R. T.

WE have received the remaining Letter from the Gentleman who ſubſcribes ORTHODOX; but muſt deſire his Excuſe for ſuſpending the inſerting of it to another Opportunity, by Reaſon of its extraordinary Length. For as, on the one Hand, it cannot well be abſtracted without injuring the Subject; ſo on the other, the great Variety of Matter, which multiplies upon us, makes it neceſſary to confine it to one Paper.

THE Letter ſubſcrib'd MER. RUSTICUS, is come to Hand, and, with the Liberty of ſome few Alterations, may be inſerted in a future Paper.

THE Letter ſign'd PHILALETHES ALBINENSIS, relating to the Favours lately granted to the *Quakers*, ſhall be inſerted at a proper Opportunity.

POLITICUS is hereby inform'd, That his Notions are ſo *New* and ſo *Good*, that they will obtain *proper* Regard, as well with Reſpect to his *Numerous Admirers*, as the *Earneſt Deſire* of the *Writer*.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XL.

*Semper Honos, Nomenque tuum, Laudesque manebunt.*
VIRG.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18. 1723.

THERE cannot be any thing more conducive to the good End which is propoſed by this Paper, than placing now and then before the Eyes of the Reader, the Example of ſome nobly-diſtinguiſh'd TRUE BRITON, whom every Man now living would think it a Glory to be able to imitate. Among all the *Illuſtrious Dead*, I cannot think of any at preſent, that would be apt to make a deeper Impreſſion in our Minds, than One that is very lately departed from among us. When I mention the Lord COWPER's Great Character for our Pattern, I am ſenſible the *Theme* muſt be as *Grateful* as the *Occaſion* of it muſt be *Mournful*. Men of great Abilities will beſt alleviate the Loſs which the *Publick* ſuſtains by his *Death*, by copying the Memorable Acts of his *Life*. What could more ſtrongly, even in the moſt *Exact* and *Literal* Senſe, intitle a

Man to the Worthy Character of a TRUE BRITON, than the *First Step* in Publick Life which we shall record of him? It was *He* that by *Uniting* the Two divided Nations of *England* and *Scotland* into One, made the Name of *Briton*, which is an Appellative equally Glorious with that of an *Old Roman*, our *proper Name*.

AFTER this, Queen *ANNE* of Glorious and Immortal Memory, in whom *Prudence* and *Piety* were happily conjoin'd, did very justly and wisely make Choice of him to be one of Her Chief Counsellors in all Affairs of the State, and constitute him Lord High Chancellor of the Kingdom, to preserve and establish among the People that *Justice*, *Peace*, and *Union*, of which he had laid the Foundation. The Dignity of this weighty Office sate *Easy* and *Graceful* upon him: In his *Person* and *Countenance* there was plainly to be seen a fine *Exterior* Figure of that *Inward* Worth, which every Body experienc'd, whom their own *Wants* press'd, and his *Affability* invited to approach him. No sooner was *He* mounted on the Bench, but all Honest Men found with Pleasure, that *Righteousness* and *Truth* were the *only* Pleaders that could be prevalent before him. Every *Poor* and *Just* Man, though almost *sunk* by the Weight of *Oppression*, enter'd the Court of *Chancery* with an Air of Confidence, because he knew, as sure as he came there, so sure he should be eased of his Burthen, and depart with a light and comforted Heart. The Party that was Cast, never went away without a full and plenary Sense of Conviction of his having been in the Wrong; And if any Person appeared guilty of *Injustice*, the Chancellor laid it open in such a Man-

a Manner, that he rather excited in the Perſon a *Compunction* and *Remorſe* for his *Crime*, than any *Indignation* at the *Diſcovery*. He reprehended Men of Ill Morals *mildly*, when he hoped there might be a *Reformation* of their *Manners*; For it was never his Inclination to be *too ſevere* to thoſe whom he thought he could *convert*: As he was the leaſt liable to any *Weakneſs* himſelf, ſo was he the moſt inclined to ſhew *Patience* and *Compaſſion* towards the Infirmities of Human Nature in *others*. In Him the *Afflicted* met with a *Comforter*, the *Friendleſs* with a *Powerful Aſſiſtant*, the *Ignorant* with a *Guide*, the *Defenceleſs Widow* with a *Safeguard*, and the *Orphan* with a *Father*. Thus his *Dignity*, his *Power*, his *Wealth*, and his *Wiſdom*, were as much Bleſſings to *others* as *himſelf*. His *Wealth* was *Honourably* acquired, which was gain'd by taking daily Pains to ſuppreſs thoſe vicious Arts, by which moſt *Worldly Wealth* is commonly procured, *Extortion*, *Fraud*, and *Rapine*; and He grew *Great* and *Honoured* by the Means of thoſe excellent Qualities, which have been known too frequently to reduce many deſerving Men, of *Leſs Genius* and *Prudence*, to *Poverty* and *Ruin*; that is, By the Means of *Generoſity*, *Ingenuity*, and a *Benevolous* and *Compaſſionate* Nature. All his *Decrees* were ſo ſuitable to the concurring Wiſdom and Judgment of his *Peers*, that (what can hardly be ſaid of any of his *Predeceſſors*) few or none of them were ever Reverſed. And though he ſhewed ſuch *Wiſdom* in all his *Determinations*, he was not *ſlow* in giving them: The *Delay* of the *Law*, which uſed to be numbered as one of its *greateſt Grievances*, was by him turn'd into *Diſpatch*; and he made his own Labours the greater, to give the greater Eaſe to *other People*.

Thus

Thus all the Time he continued in the Highest Post of Grandeur, it is, methinks, the most amiable Part of his Character, that he made us know the *Extent* and *Strength* of his *Power*, by the *Extent* and *Exertion* of his *Benevolence* and *Good-Will* towards us.

SUCH a Perſon could not be a Chancellor *twice*, and *leave* that important Office, but it muſt be the *Will* of the *Prince*, and the *Wiſh* of the *People*, that they might behold ſuch an exact and religious Adminiſtrator of Juſtice *properly* reſume and *gracefully* fill the Seat of Equity *again*. The People accordingly had their *Wiſh*, and by his preſent Majeſty's Appointment, he became our Chancellor once more. It was really due to ſuch *extraordinary* Merit, that it ſhould ſtand diſtinguiſh'd in ſo *extraordinary* a Manner, that *Two* Crown'd Heads ſhould agree in their Sentiments of this *One* Man's Worth, and make Poſterity aſſured, beyond all Diſpute, that his Preferment was an Act of *pure Judgment*, and not only barely a Mark of *Royal Favour*.

AS Great as all his other Talents were in him, they would never have had any Thing like that *Force* and *Efficacy*, which they ever carried along with them, if he had not been bleſs'd with the Gift of ELOQUENCE. It was the *Orator* that Lighted up the moſt ſhining Parts both of the *Stateſman* and the *Judge*. And yet truly, if one was aſked, In what the *Power* of his *Eloquence* chiefly conſiſted? one ſhould not anſwer, as *Demoſthenes* did the ſame Queſtion, by ſaying, *Action*; but one would anſwer, That it chiefly conſiſted in the *known Goodneſs* and

*Pro-*

*Probity* of *all his Actions*. His *whole Time* and *Pains*, as I may say, was divided between giving *good Counsel* first, and then giving a *helping Hand* in the *Execution* of it; and *both* with the *proposed Success* to his *Country*. This made his *Speeches* obtain: 'Twas his *doing* so *Elegantly* that made him *speak* so *Eloquently*: His *former* Counsels and his *former* Actions, were strong Persuasives to every-body that Heard him, to incline to every Thing that He advised proper in *future Time*: His *Discourse* might not improperly be compared to *Lightning*; It was *Divinely Beautiful*, and yet *Powerfully Strong*; It *gilded* and *adorned* whatsoever it *touch'd upon*, but *struck down* every Thing that *opposed* it. This gave him so much Weight, that when *He* rose up to *speak*, every Person present prepared with Diligence to *hear*, and *listen'd* with *Attention*. There is one remarkable Instance in which we did but *fail* of attending sufficiently to what he said, and *Thousands* have fail'd in their Fortunes for not sufficiently attending to him then. Before the fatal Calamities of the *South-Sea* befel us, scarce *One Man* now alive imagin'd, or would believe if told, what *Every-body* now knows and feels. This Great Man warn'd us against this *Evil* as an *Evil* against which, if it once got Head, No human Prudence could provide a *thorough Remedy*, and which *Time* itself would scarce be able to heal: It is a celebrated Comparison that the Lord COWPER made, when he liken'd that *Project* to the Project of the TROJAN HORSE; whose *hollow Heart* held *Prodigies* of *Mischiefs*, whose *Belly* teem'd with FALSE GREEKS, and was big with the Ruin of HONEST TROY. How many have reflected, and shall continue long to reflect with Remorse, that they

they did not give Ear to his grave and ſolid Admonitions againſt this *wild Incident* that will be *Incredible* in *Hiſtory*? How many of the *Poſterity* of *ruin'd Families* ſhall rue the Day, that their *Anceſtors* diſregarded, upon *this* Occaſion, the *Dictates* of that *Eloquent Tongue*, which ought *never* to have ſpoke in vain! But as by his *vaſt Judgment* and his *Virtue* He had fixed and ſettled a firm Band of UNION in theſe Kingdoms; So, through their own Fault and for Want of their ſtill adhering to *this Judgment* of his, ſeveral *Hundreds* of *Families* have miſerably fallen into *Diſcord* and *Confuſion*.

SUCH a Man's *Learning* and *Knowledge* muſt naturally induce him to be (as HE *was*) the Patron of *all Sciences*, who was ſure to be praiſed by *them All*. Many Worthy Men of *Genius* have *ſprung up* and grown *Happy* under *His* Protection; Men, who were *Maſters* of the *Liberal Arts* and *Sciences* which they profeſs'd: And yet if he was to be celebrated by *All* the *Beſt* of thoſe whom *He* patroniſed, he muſt be acknowledged to have been a *better Maſter* of thoſe Sciences than *any* of *them All*. He had not only the *Right* of *Authority*, *Dignity*, and *Wealth* to *protect* the *Learned*, but a *Superiority* of *Genius* to *Intitle* him to the *Protectorſhip* of them. It is for *this* Reaſon, that as fam'd a Writer as any that adorns the preſent Age, *decently* humbling himſelf before this *Great Man*, as one of a far *Superior Capacity*, does, while he is recommending his *Works* to that *Lord's Protection*, Addreſs him upon the Powers of *Elocution*, with the utmoſt *Propriety*, in the following Words: "If *theſe Gifts* were communicated to "*all Men* in Proportion to the *Truth* and *Ardour* of "their

" their *Hearts*, I ſhould ſpeak of YOU with the " *ſame Force* as You expreſs Yourſelf on any *other* " *Subject*. But I reſiſt my preſent Impulſe, as agree- " able as it is to me; though, indeed, had I any Pre- " tenſions to a Fame of this kind, I ſhould, *above* " *all other Themes*, attempt a *Panegyrick* upon my " Lord COWPER: For the only ſure Way to a Re- " putation for *Eloquence*, in an Age wherein *That* " *perfect Orator* lives, is to chooſe an Argument upon " which *He himſelf* muſt, of *Neceſſity*, be *Silent*."

SILENT! —— Alas! He! This Oracle of Elo- quence! muſt now HIMSELF, of *Neceſſity*, be ſilent for *Ever* upon *Every* Argument! —— Yet there is no *ſpeaking* in his *due Praiſe*; no Way for any *Single* Man's *expreſſing ſufficient* Sorrow for ſo *General* a Loſs! —— For, when HE grew *ſilent*, *Oratory* was ſtruck *dumb*. —— But ſilent he can never be! No! all the Memorable Acts of his Illuſtrious Life *ſtill* ſpeak, and ſpeak *aloud*, to the *whole World*, this one Great Truth, That whoever would be a *Fine Gentleman*, a *Judge*, a *Scholar*, or a *Stateſman*: That whoever would be a *Great Man* while he *lives*, and be eſteem'd ſo when he is *dead*, muſt neceſſarily be- come, in the firſt Place, a GOOD MAN.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XLI.

*——— Servetur ad imum*
*Qualis ab incepto processerit, & sibi constet.* HOR.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21. 1723.

IN this Paper, I ſhall preſent my Reader with ſome General Characters thrown together relating to ſeveral Stations of Publick Life, in which all *Engliſhmen*, that may be hereafter any way concern'd, will, according to their *different* Purſuits and Behaviour, deſerve the Appellation of *True* or *Falſe Britons*.

THE Firſt thing that a *good Miniſter* propoſes to himſelf, is to act with inviolable Probity; to do every thing with a Principle of Charity, and a ſincere Deſire of procuring Daily more Good, and adding freſh Advantages to the Publick. He next ſtudies and labours to make himſelf a Maſter of every Branch of his Buſineſs, to perfect himſelf in every Knowledge that appertains to his Poſt, and after having punctu-

punctually examined for what End it was inſtituted, reſolves faithfully to fulfil all the Obligations that are incumbent upon him, to attain that important End.

THE very Moment a Creature, born under a Malevolent Planet, to become the Peſt of Mankind, has puſhed himſelf, at ſome Evil Critical Hour, into Office, the firſt Thing he thinks of (hugging himſelf at the pleaſing Thought) is, That he has got a large Field of Opportunity, to *ſatisfy* every Call that his importune *Avarice* ſhall make, and every Wiſh that the Appetite of *Ambition* ſhall prompt him to. He next, with greedy and inſatiate Eyes, inquires, What Profits are to be made of *every Thing* that paſſes through his Clutches; informs himſelf by what *Tricks* and *Artifices* the moſt *Wicked* and *Cunning* of his *Predeceſſors* uſed to advance their different Views of *Gain* in every *profitable* Branch of their Office, and racks his Brain to diſcover, if there be any further Stratagems and *Fineſſes* to be uſed, by which he may ſtrain all, or any of thoſe Advantages, to a higher Pitch: He then reſolves to try them all at every Hazard, without Regard to Prince or People, that he may inrich and aggrandize himſelf: He makes his *Prince* hated by the *People*, and *himſelf* he makes *neceſſary* to the *Prince*: He flatters his Prince, and tempts Him to rob His People, by perſuading Him, that He may lawfully do it, and then he, juſt as lawfully, robs the Prince: He raiſes Factions, joyns with the *Bad Party*, to ſuppreſs the *Good*; and plunders *this*, to maintain the *other*; 'till at laſt, he has gain'd his full View, and ſees the Prince, who, by his Flattery, aimed to be *falſely Great*,

*Great*, become *really Little*; sees Him, while he otherwise appears a too Absolute Lord, become an Absolute Slave to the Will and Pleasure of him His single Servant, His Favourite, who has push'd every living Mortal beside out of His Service or his Sight. Thus SELF is the *End* of all the *Evil Minister's Pursuits*; SELF is the sole View throughout all the Parts of his Life's whole Conduct; and the Soul of his Actions, is *the Love of Himself*. He cannot endure the *mean* and *slavish* Thought of being born to serve the World, but dreams, with very *much Propriety*, and with *true Greatness* of Mind, that the whole World is purposely made and created to serve him alone, and that those who will not, are justly to be made as miserable as he can render them.

WITH these different Views, *Good* and *Evil Ministers* set out; and the surest Way we have to guess early at them and their Designs, consists in taking an exact Survey of the Characters of those whom they chuse for their Companions; whom they cause to be preferred to Places of Honour, Trust and Profit, and what Sort of Men they mostly encourage.

A *GOOD Minister* chuses for his Companions those Persons of the *Ancient Nobility* of that Kingdom where he presides, whose *Education* gives the greatest Promises of their having *true Probity* and *Integrity of Manners*, and who have never lain under any *Just* and *Publick Censure*, for degenerating into Actions unsuitable to their *High Birth* and *Dignity*; and who have never been taxed of departing from those Principles, which justly lifted their Ancestors to

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the chief Degrees of Honour. A *good Miniſter* courts the Company of ſuch Men as theſe; and when he finds any of them particularly ſuperior to the reſt, in a vaſt Capacity, and in having a large Experience, accompanied with a ſufficient Stock of Judgment and Prudence; when he finds any that are ſingularly remarkable for their *Courage* and *Magnanimity*, and not inſlaved by the Paſſions of *Love*, *Hatred*, *Revenge*, *&c.* when he finds any that have diſtinguiſhed themſelves by demonſtrating, on all Occaſions, a ſtrict Adherence to Juſtice, and ſhewing Patience and Commiſeration with Regard to his Fellow Creatures; Theſe are the Men whom he promotes to ſuch Stations, either in the *Prieſthood*, or the *Adminiſtration*, as are moſt ſuitable to their reſpective Abilities and Inclinations.

LET us now ſee, what a ſpecial Company attend and wait upon the Perſon of a *wicked Politician*, and ſwell up the Pomp of Vice: Degenerate Nobles, who have waſted their Fortunes in the Sins of their Youth, by the prodigal Purſuits of Debauchery, muſt patch up a ruin'd Eſtate, by complying to fall in with more Criminal Meaſures than they had taken to conſume it; Theſe are the Perſons who make the Principal Figure among all his Acquaintance! Excepting theſe, you ſhall not ſee any other Perſons about him, but Wretches of *low Birth* and *vile Education*, whoſe Names and Families were Strangers to the World, 'till they became *dignify'd Upſtarts*, the *Muſhrooms* of his Favour, ſprung up in the *Night-time* of his *dark* Adminiſtration. Out of theſe he makes a *Baneful* Collection of *State-Weeds*, and ſcatters them o'er the whole Land to *poiſon* and *infect* it, and calls them

*His* Prelates, *His* Judges, *His* Magiſtrates, *His* Officers, and Soldiers, *&c.*

LET us next conſider all theſe very *different* Perſons, ſuppoſed to be choſen by ſuch *different* Miniſters, in their reſpective Poſts and Stations, that we may judge what a vaſt Sum of Important *Good*, or *Miſchief*, may be raiſed in the World by One *Honeſt*, or *Diſhoneſt* Man.

WHEN a *good* and *pious Prieſt* is, through the Means of an Honeſt Miniſter, recommended to high Preferments in the Church, a whole Clergy are encouraged to be virtuous, by ſo wholeſome an Example; nor is the Poſt in which he is placed, ſo much for his own Benefit, as for the Benefit of others. But when a *wicked Prieſt* is led, by the Powerful Hand of an Evil Miniſter, into Eccleſiaſtical Promotions, he receives the Place, which ought to be only the Station of a *Saint*, as Wages for committing *any Impiety* that his flagitious Patron ſhall require at his Hands: He knows he is made a Prelate merely upon the ſtrong Preſumption which his politick Friend entertains in his Favour, that he will never be in Danger of turning a *Changeling* to his *Infidel Principles*, and becoming a Chriſtian; and is therefore reſolved to ſacrifice any Rights of the Church within his Power, to gratify the Pleaſure of his Promoter: He knows he is a *real Devil*, only *transform'd* into a *ſeeming Angel* of Light; and, accordingly, takes extraordinary Pains to inſtruct all his Inferiors, that, as they hope for Preferment in this World, they muſt follow his Example, with regard to the next,

and

and *work out their Damnation*, as others do their *Salvation*, with *Fear and Trembling*.

IF we take a Step from the *Temple* to the *Courts of Juſtice*, we ſhall find the Good and Evil Politician creating as great Differences at the *Tribunal* as at the *Altar*.

THE *Honeſt JUDGE* deems no Man a Criminal, tho' there lies againſt him the higheſt Accuſation, 'till it is plainly and demonſtratively proved. A *Diſhoneſt one*, goes prædetermin'd to the Bench; he asks what Sentence he is to pronounce, before he comes to the Seat of Juſtice and Judgment: If he finds the Party before him wrongfully accuſed, injured Innocence makes no Impreſſion on his Conſcience, which he has made Sale of to a more powerful Intereſt: *After* he has heard the Tryal, he gives his Opinion according to the Inſtructions he received *before* he heard it. The *Diſhoneſt Judge* follows his *Paſſions*, not his *Reaſon*: The *Honeſt one* purſues not his *Paſſions*, but adheres ſtrictly and religiouſly to his *Reaſon*; is never out of Temper, but *patient* to *hear*, and *vigilant* to *diſcern* and *diſcover* the *Truth*. The *Honeſt one* forms his Judgment by the *Laws*: The other makes *wreſted Interpretations*, and moulds and faſhions the *Laws* to his Judgment. The *Corrupt Judge* keeps Company with Great and Wealthy Men, who have both the *Power* and *Inclination* to oppreſs; is always very *quick* of *hearing* on that Side, but ever *deaf* on the other Side, where the Poor and Honeſt *Indigent* pours forth his unprofitable Complaints, and pleads, and labours in vain, for Acceſs to Juſtice. The *Upright Judge* makes no Exception of Perſons, he has no Re-

gard to Dignity, Authority, or Wealth: Whether a Thing be *Right* or *Wrong*, is all the Queſtion he conſiders to lie regularly before him; and if the *Greateſt* Man on Earth is in the Wrong in oppoſing the *Leaſt*, the *Greateſt* Man is certain to be caſt. Both the *Partial* and *Impartial Judge* keep a watchful Eye over Pleaders, Solicitors, Witneſſes, and the Under-Officers of the Court, but with Views that are widely different. Before the *Impartial Judge*, the Pleader ſtands in Awe: He is afraid of betraying any *Corruption* in his *Manners*; he does not dare to gild and gloſs over a bad Cauſe with Reaſonings that carry no real Force with them; He is afraid of treating Perſons wrongfully accuſed, whom impious Greatneſs would have to be oppreſs'd, with any Haughtineſs of Behaviour, or Invective Inſolence of Speech; He knows, that ſuch a Demeanour will ſhew, before the Eyes of *ſuch* a Judge, either an *Ignorance* of his *Profeſſion*, or a *Predominance* of his *Malice*. The *Falſe Evidence*, either never preſumes to come there, or if he is harden'd enough to preſume ſo far, yet, overwhelmed with Fear and Remorſe at *ſuch* a Judge's Preſence, he diſcovers almoſt all his Guilt in his Face, before he opens his Lips. Inferior Officers uſe their Priſoners well; for a *good Judge* will viſit the Priſon on Occaſion, and take Care, that the Impriſon'd may not want what it is proper and neceſſary for them to have.—— Under the *Partial Judge*, Inferior Officers ſhall commit *Murder* with Impunity, nay, by Authority, under Pretext, that they kill'd for Righteouſneſs Sake. *Pleaders* ſhall be encouraged in *falſe Reaſonings*; be applauded for the *elaborate Sophiſtry* of their mercenary Harangues. Under the wicked Judge, ſhall *falſe Evidences*, the Bane of the Publick Weal, take Shel-

Shelter; they ſhall appear with Confidence, ſhall have their Crimes pointed out to them of which they are to accuſe the Innocent, that they may *lye efficaciouſly*, and be *perjured to the Purpoſe*. The *baſe Informer* may reaſonably let his wicked Heart ſwell within him with Impudence and Aſſurance, when he full well knows, that he is *leſs baſe* than the *Judge*, who *ſupremely* authorizes the Cruelty: For while ſuch an Evidence does only, as a *Tool*, perjure himſelf, perhaps, to bring about the Death of an Innocent Man, ſuch a Judge *confirms*, and, in a manner, *executes* and *ſanctifies* the murdering Oath, with the coloured and painted Face of *Legality* and *Juſtice*.

IF from the *Temple*, and the *Courts of Juſtice*, we go and take a Review of the CAMP, and examine well the *Military Officers*, that act under a *good* or *bad* Adminiſtration, how vaſt is the Difference that we ſhall meet with, in their *Diſcipline* and *Conduct*?

THE *Diſhonourable* and *Wicked* SOLDIER is a Lyar to the Noble Profeſſion which he pretends to undertake, and is, what Dr. *South* deſcribes a Lyar to be, *A Coward towards Men, and a Bravo towards God*: He baſely acts as he is directed by the private Paſſions of *Luſt*, *Cruelty*, *Avarice*, *Ambition*, *Revenge*. An *Honourable Soldier* has no Paſſions of his own; advancing the *Glory* and *Safety* of his *Country*, and repelling the *Injuries* it receives, are the *Publick Motives* by which his *Valour* and *Proweſs* are acted; The *Brave Soldier* receives *Wounds* from his Foe in the Field without *Reſentment*, and *Kills* without *Anger*; he thinks it ſweet to venture, nay,

to lay down his Life for his *Country*'s Service. On the other Hand, do but place a Barbarous Bribe of Gold in the *Baſe Soldier*'s Way, he will frame an *Ambuſcade* for his Brother Officer; he will compaſs the Death of his *Countryman* and his *Friend*, and ſhare the Booty with a *Foreigner* and a *Stranger*. The *Cruelty* of a *Fearful Ruffian*, and the *Cunning* of an *Enterprizing Thief*, are Qualifications which, in the Brutal Officer I am deſcribing, ſupply the Place of *Fortitude* and *Wiſdom*: He robs the *Common Soldiers* of their *Bread*, their *Cloaths*, and their *Pay*, and very bravely hangs them if they murmur; then prances about in gilded Coaches, with an effeminate Train of Lacqueys, and gives to Pimps and Whores, what he ſteals from the poor half-ſtarv'd Centinel in the Field. Thus, with the *Cunning* of a *Thief*, and the *Cruelty* of a *Ruffian*, will he venture to deſerve the Publick Death of a Dog; But if his *Country*'s *Cauſe*, or his *own Honour*, ſhould call him forth againſt a *Foe* in the broad Face of open Day, he is ſo *cool* and *deliberate* a Fighter, that he ſhrinks his Daſtard Head, and then calls his baſe Way of declining Danger, *Prudent Conduct*; though this Man of ſingular Proweſs would, perhaps, on a more unjuſt Occaſion, and even to his *Country*'s *Ruin*, expoſe the Lives of Thouſands, each ſingle Man of whom was braver than himſelf. How much more to be dreaded than a Plague is *ſuch* an Officer? And yet it is always ſuch an Officer, that an *Evil Miniſter* does conſtantly pick out and employ as his faſt Friend, if he ſees the Day of Danger and Diſtreſs approaching him.

TO return therefore, after ſumming up theſe ſeveral Calamities in our Thoughts, to the prime Source

Source and Origin of them all, What ſhall we ſay of any *Impious Miniſter*, who chuſes a PRELATE to betray the Rights of a Church into his prophanely rapacious and violating Hands? What of the *Unjuſt Miniſter*, who procures a *Monſtrous* JUDGE to condemn Innocence by the Concurring Perjury of ſuborn'd Witneſſes, which they are obliged, by their own previous Oaths, to preſerve from Oppreſſion? What of any *Cruel Miniſter*, who picks and chuſes out *Robbers* and *Ruffians*, for his OFFICERS and SOLDIERS, to ruin and plunder their Fellow-Subjects, whom they ſhould venture their Lives to protect?

TO what ſhall we liken ſuch a Gigantick Monſter of Impiety, when he happens to infeſt any State? May we not moſt properly call him, *The Tempeſt that ſhakes the Age* in which he lives? When I place before my Eyes, the melancholy Proſpect of the late *Inundation* in *Spain*, that ſwallowed an Aſſembly of Princes, Dukes, Lords, and Prelates, that were innocently met for Recreation, I tremble at the dreadful Accident; But ſtill I feel a greater Shock when I read ſome Hiſtorical Accounts of the Ravages committed by the *Guiſe's*, the *Alva's*, and other *wicked Miniſters* of paſt Ages: They were more *dangerous* and *rapid Torrents*, and bore down greater Men by the *Stream* of *Faction*, and the *fatal Tyde* of thoſe Times, and more and greater Perſonages periſhed by thoſe Prodigies in Miſchief.

AS it is only during a Calm, that Men can fortify themſelves againſt ſuch Tempeſtuous Accidents; ſo the moſt ſeaſonable and ſecure Time of Arming ourſelves

ſelves againſt ſuch Evil Miniſters, is, when we enjoy the Benefit of a Wiſe, Virtuous, and Happy Adminiſtration. At *this Time*, when the *Leading* Lights of our CHURCH preſerve it in all its Primitive Purity; At this Time, when the Seats of our *Courts* of JUSTICE are fill'd with Perſons of undoubted Integrity, Probity, and Compaſſion; At this Time, when the ADMINISTRATION is lodged in the Beſt and Nobleſt Hands that we could wiſh or deſire; we may ſeaſonably and ſecurely pen the ſharpeſt Invectives againſt the *Oppreſſive* MINISTER, the *Profane* and *Sacrilegious* PRIEST, the *Unjuſt* and *Corrupt* JUDGE, the *Plundering* and *Cruel* OFFICER. The *Good* ought to die but *once*, and live for *Ever* after with Honour in our Memories; but the *Wicked* ought to die *every Day*: Therefore, we daily apprehend freſh *Criminals* in our Cloſets, as we read freſh *Hiſtories*: We paſs freſh Sentences upon them in our daily Converſations, and we put them to Death *in Effigie* every Night upon our *Stages*, in order to ſtir up in every Living Man, ſuch a juſt Abhorrence againſt them, that if any ſuch, in future Times, ſhould ariſe, and make Innocent Men ſuffer, they may be probably brought to bear a *real Part* in the Cataſtrophe of thoſe *Bloody Tragedies*, which they *really* act on the *Theatre* of the World.

THE Author is much obliged to the Lady who ſtiles herſelf PHILOCLEA, and thinks he cannot better acknowledge the Favour of her juſt Rebuke, than by inſerting her Letter at length the firſt Opportunity; and in the mean while, wiſhes the Continuance of her Correſpondence.

THE

THE Gentleman who is ſo preſſing to have the Subject of the Diſſenters continued and concluded, is hereby aſſured, that the laſt Letter on that Subject from our kind Correſpondent ORTHODOX, ſhall be inſerted in our next.

THE Gentleman who ſtiles himſelf ARTIMEDORUS, and gives us ſo ample an Account of his DREAMS, is deſired to excuſe our not inſerting his Letter, according to his earneſt Requeſt, 'till he *dreams* again upon the ſame Subject, that we may be able to judge, whether there be any Likelihood of expounding them, without the Help of a *Secretary of State*.

TO the Requeſt of ANDROGENA, as deſir'd, the Author chearfully anſwers YES.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XLII.

*In pejora datur, ſuadetque licentia luxum.* CLAUD.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25. 1723.

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

I SHALL now briefly purſue the Hiſtory of the Actions of our Sectaries of different Denominations, where I left off, at the Depoſition and Imprisonment of *Mary* Queen of *Scots*.

AFTER the Kirk had taken ſeveral Methods to fetter the Conſcience of the Young King as he grew up, and to ſecure themſelves and propagate their Diſcipline, not being ſatisfy'd with his Prime Miniſter, they contrived to ſeize the King's Perſon; which Project they executed with ſuch Irreverence and Inhumanity, that the King burſt into Tears; but was told

by one of them, *That 'twas no Matter for his Tears; Better Bairns ſhould weep, than Beard-Men.* Then extorting from him a Proclamation of Conſent, they carried him to *Edinburgh*, where the Aſſembly of Miniſters juſtify'd the traiterous Action, ſinging in Triumph as they went up the *High-ſtreet* the 124th Pſalm, *Now Iſrael may ſay*, &c. And the King afterwards deſiring the Magiſtrates of the City to treat ſplendidly two Ambaſſadors of *France* of the firſt Rank (himſelf being not ſuffer'd to do any thing) and they appointing a Day for that Purpoſe, the Miniſters, determin'd to ſhew their Power, and to inſult the King and Ambaſſadors, Proclaim'd a Faſt for that very Day; and fulminated the Church Cenſures againſt the Magiſtrates and all who were at the Entertainment for not obſerving it. Nor was this to be ſo much wonder'd at, ſince the ſame Kirk, when the King was arrived at a maturer Age, thought fit abſolutely to refuſe their Sovereign's Requeſt, to pray for his Mother then in Danger of Death in *England*.

INNUMERABLE were the Inſolences and Provocations of the *Holy Brethren*, to their Sovereign, from his Acceſſion to the *Scottiſh* Throne to the Time of his being called to ſucceed Queen *Elizabeth*; which I ſhall paſs by, referring to * Archbiſhop *Spotſwood*, *Heylin*, *Fowlis*, and other Eminent Pens; of which alſo King *James* himſelf took handſome Notice in the Conferences appointed by that Prince at *Hampton Court*, for reconciling Religious Differences.

* *Vide* Spotſwood's Hiſt. P. 317, 318, 319, 327, 330, 384.

WHILE

WHILE theſe Matters were tranſacting by the *Scottiſh* Presbytery, their Brethren in *England* (altho' by Means of the Reſolution and Steadineſs of Queen *Elizabeth*, they had not the ſame Power) ſufficiently manifeſted the like Inclinations, and that they were actuated by the ſame Seditious Principles. *Cartwright*, a furious Divine of *Cambridge*, having had Dr. *Preſton* preferred to him by the Queen in a Diſputation held in her Preſence, was ſo inraged, that he took a Turn to *Geneva*, where imbibing the Doctrines and Diſcipline of *Calvin*, he returned to *England*, flaming with Rage againſt the Conſtitution of the *Engliſh* Church. And being expell'd his College for his violent Diſcourſes, firſt ſet up Conventicles in Oppoſition to the Government, and he and his Followers, proceeding with all the Solemnity of a Legal Council, took upon them by their own Authority (what would have brought upon the whole Clergy of the Eſtabliſh'd Church a *Præmunire* to have pretended to, without the Sovereign's Conſent) to Decree Canons and Injunctions; to inforce their Authority by Church Cenſures, and to arrogate to themſelves Powers of Excommunication, *&c.* according to the Diſcipline of *Calvin*.

AND as one of their Brethren in *Scotland* in his Publick Sermon (which the whole Kirk ſo far approv'd, as to eſpouſe the Preacher's Cauſe againſt the King, who had order'd him to be proſecuted) had affirm'd; * *That all Kings were the Devils Bairns; That the King's Heart was treacherous; and that the*

* *Spotſwood*, p. 423, 424.

*Devil*

*Devil was in the Court, and the Guiders of it: That the Queen of* England *was an Atheiſt and a wicked Woman: That the Nobility and Lords were Miſcreants, Bribers, Degenerated, Godleſs Diſſemblers, and Enemies to the Church: That the Council were Holliglaſſes, Cormorants, and Men of no Religion. And in his Prayer for Queen* ANNE, *had ſaid, We muſt pray for her for the Faſhion; but we have no Cauſe; ſhe will never do us Good;* And even proceeded to back his Violences with raiſing Armed Men in a rebellious Manner: So in *England*, nothing but ſcurrilous Invectives were ſeen againſt the Biſhops and Clergy of the Church: Queen *Elizabeth* was told openly in a Sermon preach'd by one *Dering*, *That ſhe was like an untam'd Heifer, that would not be rul'd by God's People, but obſtructed his Diſcipline.* The beſt Names they had for *Whitgift* Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*, were, * *The Beelzebub of* Canterbury; *Pope*; Caiphas; *The* Eſau *of* Lambeth; *The Bloody* † *Butcher of the Saints*; *Antichriſtian Beaſt*; *and Curſed Tyrant.* The Biſhops they call'd § *Baſtardly Governors of the Church*; *Prieſts of the Devil*; *Petty Popes*; *Petty Antichriſts*; *Cozening Knaves*; *Lyars*; *Dogs*, &c. The inferior Clergy were called ‖ *Popiſh Prieſts*; *Monks*; *Drunkards*; *Hogs*; *Wolves*; *Dogs*; *Agents for Antichriſt*; *bloody Murtherers of Souls, and Robbers of Chriſt's Church*, and from thence they proceeded to menace the Parliament with an Inſurrection (in a pretended *Supplication* Sign'd by 10,000

* *Martin-Mar-prelate.* c. 1.
† *Letter from* Scotland.
§ *Any Work for a Cooper, p.* 20, 21, 22.
‖ Udall's *Dialog.* c. 1.

Hands)

Hands) if they would not *Eſtabliſh the Diſcipline* ; * *And that if they refuſed ſpeedily to do ſo, they would be in Danger of the terrible Maſs of God's Wrath, both in this Life and that to come: That they might well hope for the Curſe of the Law, but the Favour and Loving Countenance of Jeſus Chriſt they ſhould never ſee* ; and all this at a Time, when the *Spaniſh Armado* was hovering about the Coaſt, and threatning Deſtruction both to *Church* and *State*.

BY this Time, I believe, I may ſpare my Reader and ſelf a great deal of Trouble ; and it will not be wonder'd that ſuch abominable Blaſphemers and Enthuſiaſts as *Hacket*, *Coppinger* and *Arthington* (who were incouraged by *Cartwright* and other Puritan Miniſters) ſhould be produced from ſo much Confuſion : That the Diviſion of the *Presbyterians*, ſhould occaſion ſo many Sub-Diviſions, and particularly the Sect of the *Brownists*, or *Independents*, who pretended to refine upon the *Geneva* Diſcipline, and Vindicated their Separation from them, with the ſame Reaſons and with the like Freedom of Speech, that the *Presbyterians* had uſed againſt the Church ; which begot between the two Sects a greater Animoſity to each other, than they had to the Eſtabliſh'd Religion. *Brown* and *Cartwright* afterwards, indeed, ſeemed ſorry for the Miſchiefs they had been guilty of, and conform'd to the Church of *England* ; but found no Conforming Followers of their Congregation, having raiſed a Devil they were not able to lay.

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* *Suppl. Parl. p.* 25.

NEITHER

NEITHER will my Readers now be ſurprized at the black Tranſactions of the ſame Set of Men; of the Perfidies, Rebellions and Murders which they were guilty of in the ſucceeding Reigns. He will be able by this Time, to expect from the Arbitrary Temper and Lordlineſs of *Calvin*, who had in a Manner made himſelf, and the Miniſters his Succeſſors, Abſolute Lords of *Geneva*; from the Inſolence and Seditious Spirit of *Knox*, *Melvil*, and indeed the whole General Aſſembly of *Scots* Miniſters; from their Depoſition firſt of the Queen Regent, and afterwards of their unhappy Queen *Mary*; from their Deſires of Deſtroying that Princeſs, and their Seizure of the Perſon of their King; and from the whole Series of their ſucceeding Behaviour to that Prince: Confirm'd by the Inſtances I have given of the like Spirit in our *Engliſh* Puritans. From all theſe Inſtances, I ſay, and from ſuch *Principles* and *Practices*, the Reader will be naturally led to account for and expect, the black Tragedy which follow'd; the Bloody Civil Wars; and the Murder of King *Charles* the Firſt.

I SHALL not offer to defend ſome of the Miſcarriages of the Reign of King *Charles* the Firſt; but certainly the Provocations that unhappy Prince met with, are of ſuch a Nature, as admit of no Parallel or Excuſe. Some unhappy Steps, (in which however he was countenanc'd by the Opinion of his *Time ſerving Judges*,) render'd his Adminiſtration obnoxious to many excellent Patriots, who little dream'd of the Conſequences that enſu'd from their too raſh Endeavours to procure a Redreſs of Grievances.

vances. And when the Breach was unhappily begun between the King and his Parliament, the fiery Spirit of the *Puritans* exerted itſelf to make the Wound incurable. Having obtain'd a Majority in the Parliament, their Preachers ſtruck at the King, under the odious Characters of *Achan*, *Saul* and *Jeroboam*, and extoll'd the Zeal of *Phineas*, *Ehud*, &c. thereby inculcating the Aſſaſſination of his Sacred Perſon: And to quicken the violent Spirits to Arms, pronounced againſt all that were ſlack, the Curſes of the Old Teſtament, *Curſe ye Meroz*, &c.

THEN turning their Fury againſt *Epiſcopacy* and the *Liturgy*, they procured a Bill to aboliſh both: Impriſon'd the Biſhops, Beheaded the Archbiſhop; and the moſt enormous Sacrileges and Defacing of Churches ſucceeded; the Puritan Preachers, who were Chaplains in the Army, ſtanding by to incourage the rude Soldiers. To this ſucceeded the Solemn *League and Covenant* from *Scotland*; for refuſing to take which, moſt of the Epiſcopal Miniſters were ejected; in *London* only, 115 Miniſters being depriv'd and left to ſtarve, while the moſt virulent Sectaries were put into their Places; And finally, the *Presbyterian* Diſcipline was ſet up for Three Years, to try how it would ſuit with the Inclinations of the divided Multitude, and the leſſer Benefices were filled with Trades-men and Soldiers, who, according to the Cuſtom of thoſe *Pious Times*, were taught to *Fight and Pray*. Mean while the Epiſcopal Clergy were forced to depend on the Hoſpitality of Great Mens Tables for their Subſiſtance, or to teach School, even which Favour, at laſt, that they might be utterly diſtreſs'd and ſtarv'd out, was prohibited to them

under

under the severest Penalties. —— And this by that Set of Men, who, but a few Years before, pleaded so earnestly for *Liberty of Conscience*, and insulted their Prince and the Establish'd Church with perpetual Clamours in that Behalf, and who have been ever since deafning the Nation on the same Account, 'till they have lifted themselves into a State of Security, that many among them at this Day, boast to be equivalent to the *Establishment* of the Church.

AND now, to shew the Remorselessness of their Principles, and how able they were to go thorow-stitch with their Work, their Sovereign is arraign'd by a Set of Miscreants, Sentence pronounced upon him, and finally his Head struck off, in the Face of the Sun, and before the Gates of his own Palace.

IN vain would the *Presbyterians* endeavour to clear themselves of this horrid Fact; for, besides that the *Independents*, who 'tis confess'd, were the prevailing Party at this barbarous Execution, were a Sect produced from themselves, and probably would never have been heard of, if the *Presbyterians* (who are certainly the Original Authors of all the other Separations) had not begun the Schism; 'tis well known That they were the sole Occasions of all the Confusions, and they never repented any of the Hardships to which they had subjected the King, nor even his being reduced a Prisoner to the Mercy of his implacable Enemies; But when indeed, they would have prescribed to *Oliver* as they had done to their Princes, and found he would not bear with their Insolence; on the contrary, subjecting them beneath the Yoke of their Rival Sect, and making them undergo great-

er Hardſhips than they had ever complained of in the Reign of their Lawful Sovereign; then they had Recourſe to their old Trade of Plotting and Sedition. And this is excellently remarked by the Great *Milton*, who, however Faulty he was to his King, certainly had good Opportunities of knowing them, and their Principles and Views. His Words are theſe:

*THEN certain* Presbyterian *Miniſters*, ſays he, *formerly* moſt inveterate Enemies *of King* Charles, *but now grieving that the* Independent *Party was preferred before them, began to be mutinous, and to find Fault with the Sentence of the Parliament upon the King; not being angry with the* Fact itſelf, *but becauſe it was not done by their Faction.* In another Place he charges them *with juggling and paltering with the World, handying and bearing Arms againſt their King, diveſting him, diſanointing him, nay, curſing him all over in their Pulpits, Pamphlets,* &c. *and then not only turning* Revolters *from thoſe Principles which only could at firſt move them, but laying a Stain of Diſloyalty on thoſe Proceedings which were the neceſſary Conſequences of their own former Actions.* He rallies them *for citing the King ſo often under the Name of* Tyrant, *in the Hearing of* God, *of* Angels, *and the* Holy Church *aſſembled, and their charging him with ſpilling of more innocent Blood by far, than* Nero *did:* And demands of them, *Whether their now* Re-canting *Miniſters had not preach'd againſt him as a REPROBATE INCURABLE, an Enemy to GOD and his CHURCH, mark'd for DESTRUCTION, and therefore not to be treated with.* He ridicules their fine Clauſe in the *Covenant to preſerve his* Perſon, Crown, *and* Dignity, *as inſerted*

*there*

*there by ſome* dodging Caſuiſt; *with more* Craft, *than* Sincerity, *to mitigate the Matter in Caſe of ill Succeſs. He calls their Preachers, Miniſters of* SEDITION, *not of the* GOSPEL, *who, while they ſaw it manifeſtly tend to* Civil War *and* Bloodſhed, *never ceas'd exaſperating the People againſt him; and now they ſee it likely to breed* New Commotions, *ceaſe not to incite others againſt the People that have ſaved them from him; as if* SEDITION *were their only Aim, whether* Againſt *Him, or* For *Him.* In this Manner, by the juſt Judgment of God, did theſe virulent Sectaries triumph over and condemn one another. And it may be worthy Remark, That whether the *Independants* or *Presbyterians* had the greater Hand in cutting off the King's Head, there is ſo little Difference in their Opinions and Principles, that at this Day, they are join'd in Communion all over *England*.

AND now happy was the Man who could become the Author of a new Sect. All the execrable Hereſies of Old Times were reviv'd, and nothing was ſo horrid, blaſphemous or ſhocking, but ſome Teachers of that Time deliver'd from their Pulpits as the Word of God, and for their Pains, were applauded by the People as the Diſcoverers of ſome rare Truth. Hence ſprang innumerable Sects and Heretick's, as *Agitators, Levellers, Mutineers, Ranters, Seekers, Quakers, Muggletonians, Anabaptiſts, Fifth-Monarchy-Men*, &c. And here permit me to give the Words of *Whitlock*, (who had a great Hand in the Confuſion of thoſe Times) in his *Manuſcript* Additions to his *Memoirs*, which give a lively Deſcription of thoſe Diſtractions.

*SUCCESS*, says he, *rais'd in them a Haughtineſs of Mind, and a Roaming of Imagination; every one endeavour'd or expected to have his private Fancy put in Action, and to be little leſs than Princes; To effect ſomething dream'd on to this Purpoſe, many Wits were working. Some were for one Thing, ſome for another; all were violent in their Way, and brought into ſeveral Parties and Factions. The* Army *was divided into* Levellers *and* Diſciplin'd Soldiers; *The* Parliament *was divided into* Royaliſts *and* Republicans; *The whole* Nation *was divided into* Cavaliers *and* Parliamentarians. *The* Parliamentarians *were again divided into* Presbyterians, Independants, Anabaptiſts, Fifth-Monarchy-Men, *and many other Perſuaſions; and none but the moſt miſerable of all Cures for the ſick State; no Unity of Diviſions, but by a greater Calamity,* The Sword. —— *The* Engliſh *were at Variance with the* Scots *and* Iriſh; *the* Scots *at Variance with the* Engliſh *and* Iriſh; *the* Iriſh *hating both the* Engliſh *and* Scots; *The Native* Iriſh *differ'd among themſelves,* Rebels *from* Rebels, Rebels *from the* Engliſh Cavaliers, Rebels *and* Engliſh Cavaliers *there in War againſt the* Parliament. *In* Scotland *was Contention between the* Kirk Party *and the* State; *both were jealous of the* King's Party; *all of them together deſigning againſt* England. *In* England *the* Civil War *not fully appeaſed between the* King *and the* Parliament; *Contention among the Parliament Party between the* Royaliſts *and* Republicans, *and again between the* Presbyterians *and* Independants.

AND here, for the Diverſion of my Reader, and a little to relieve his Mind from the melancholy Subject,

ject, I will ſubjoin a Copy of a Jury return'd in the County of *Suſſex*, in thoſe Fanatical Times: The Chriſtian Names whereof then in Faſhion, will be a good Proof that the Religion of thoſe Preciſians was only *Nominal* and *meer Sound*. The Reverend Mr. *Brome* in the Second Edition of his *Travels over England*, p. 279. ſays, It was given him by a Worthy Hand, and inſerts it for the ſame Reaſon that I do, *viz.* To ſhew the Superſtitious Vanity of that Age.

Accepted Trevor, *of* Northam.
Redeemed Compton, *of* Battle.
Faint-not Hewet, *of* Heathfield.
Make-Peace Heaton, *of* Hare.
God-Reward Smart, *of* Fiſhurſt.
Stand-faſt-on-High Stringer, *of* Crowhurſt.
Earth Adams, *of* Warbleton.
Called Lower, *of the ſame.*
Kill-Sin Pimple, *of* Witham.
Return Spelman, *of* Watling.
Be-Faithful Joiner, *of* Britling.
Fly-Debate Roberts, *of the ſame.*
Fight-the-Good-Fight-of-Faith White, *of* Emer.
More-Fruit Fowler, *of* Eaſt-Hadley.
Hope-for Bending, *of the ſame.*
Graceful Harding, *of* Lewes.
Weep-not Billing, *of the ſame.*
Meek Brewer, *of* Okeham.

THE Invitation made to King *Charles* II. by the *Scots*, and their Proclaiming and Crowning Him at *Scoon*, ſeem to plead a little in the Favour of that Nation: But whoever reflects on the Diſhonourable Conditions impoſed on that Prince, as Conditions *ſine qua non*, and their obliging him to take the *Covenant*: Their Conduct towards him when he had truſted himſelf among them: The perpetual Reproaches to him of the Sins of his *Father's Houſe*, whereof they extorted from him an unparallell'd Acknowledgment, and to which they always imputed to his very Face, the ill Succeſs of their Arms or Councils: The Abſoluteneſs and Enthuſiaſtic Superſtition of their Miniſters, who, on different Pretences, always hinder'd and prevented the Advantages that might have been taken

to advance his Cauſe; and who always in a Committee attended him and imbarraſs'd his Counſels and Arms, and made him no better than a Priſoner at their Wills; avowing in his Preſence all the Evils of the paſt Twelve Years: Whoever, I ſay, reflects on theſe Things, will find very little Cauſe to applaud their Behaviour to their injur'd Sovereign; or to wonder, that that Prince received ſuch Impreſſions of their Violences and Hypocriſy, as laid the Sectaries under ſome Hardſhips on his Reſtoration, when he ſaw they were not to be reclaim'd by Indulgence. However,

IN the firſt Two Years after the King's Return, thoſe who had unjuſtly uſurp'd the Livings of the Epiſcopal Clergy, and had by their Writings and Preachings promoted the Rebellion, were not only exempted from Puniſhment, but, where the ancient Paſtors were dead, were ſuffer'd to retain their Livings, notwithſtanding, thro' the Irregularity of their Admiſſion, they were void in Law.

BUT a Conference that was appointed in the Beginning of that Reign, between the Clergy of the Church and the principal Teachers of the Diſſenters, coming to nothing, thro' the Unreaſonableneſs of their Demands, and they ſetting up new Conventicles to propagate their Schiſm, in Defiance of the Laws, where all Sorts of Tradeſmen were admitted Preachers; theſe Proceedings bore ſo great a Reſemblance to the Beginnings of their former Commotions, that the Adminiſtration was very well warranted to uſe ſome Rigors to bridle and reſtrain thoſe factious Spirits, before it became too late.

THE

THE flattering Conduct of the Sectaries in the Reign of King *James* II. (while that miſtaken Prince was impriſoning the Biſhops of the Church of *England*, and laying the Epiſcopal Clergy under all manner of Hardſhips, for the Noble Stand which they made againſt Popery) their ſordid Compliances, and Courtſhips, and their Silence in the great Exigencies of that critical Juncture, when the Proteſtant Religion was at Stake; will ever be remember'd, to the Glory of the one, and the Diſgrace of the other. But at length the Abdication of that Prince, and the Acceſſion of King *William* and Queen *Mary* to the Throne, having procur'd for the Diſſenters of all Denominations an Act of Indulgence to exempt them from thoſe Penal Laws which enjoyn'd Uniformity, they now pretended to ſtand upon an equal Foot with the Eſtabliſhment, and to ſhare equally the Honours and Preferments of the State. And to be brief, their whole Conduct ever ſince, and the Inſults they have made, and ſtill continue to make, upon the Eſtabliſh'd Church, in all their Writings and Sermons, ſufficiently evince, That they have not ſo well merited the Favours they have received, as it were to be wiſh'd, or as it might be expected from common Gratitude; from their clamorous Pretenſions to *Moderation*, and from Conſciences *truly ſcrupulous*. And of this I might give innumerable Inſtances; but having exceeded all Bounds, I think it high Time to relieve the Reader's Patience.

IT is neceſſary, however, to add, That my Deſign in tracing the Actions of theſe Men from their firſt Source, proceeds not from a Deſire of reviving Old

Diſputes, or irritating the Minds of People. Nor do I wiſh that the Penal Laws were let looſe againſt them. No Man is more for indulging Liberty to Conſciences truly ſcrupulous, nor a greater Enemy to Perſecution in all Kinds, than my ſelf. But when theſe unquiet Spirits, cannot content themſelves in reaſonable Bounds: When they grow upon Conceſſion and Indulgence: When they ſo loudly every where boaſt of their Loyalty and Duty to the State, and ſtigmatize all Perſons, of whatſoever Degree, that are Zealous for the Eſtabliſh'd Church, as Betrayers of their Country; as Eſpouſers of the Cauſe of a Popiſh Pretender; and as Enemies to the preſent Happy Eſtabliſhment: In this Caſe, I thought it not improper to give a Brief Hiſtory from Authentick Vouchers, of their Conduct and of their Principles; and by ſhewing the *Novelty* of their Claims to *Loyalty* and *Duty*, leave all the World to judge of the Sincerity of their Pretenſions; and what Reliance is to be made upon them, if they were not to find it their Higheſt Intereſt, and if they had not wrought themſelves into a Circumſtance, which they think gives them Power not only to joſtle with the Conſtitution, but on all Occaſions to inſult and aſperſe the Members of the Church of *England*, and all Orders and Degrees of Men they diſlike, with Impunity.

I SHALL add one Reflection, That has frequently occurr'd to me on revolving this Subject, *viz.* That it is principally owing to the Schiſms and Extravagant Feuds ſet on Foot by the Diſſenters, and their Inſolent Behaviour to Princes and Magiſtrates, to the utter Confuſion of all Order and good Government, that ſo ſudden, and, as it ſeems, ſo effectual a Stop has been put to the amazing Progreſs of the Reformation

tion. For when the moderate *Roman Catholicks*, who were convinced of the exorbitant Pretenſions of the Court of *Rome*, and began to diſcover many Errors and Abſurdities in that Church, ſaw the violent Declaimers againſt thoſe Uſurpations arrogate to themſelves as great a Power; and that there were likely to be as many *Popes* as *Miniſters*; When they ſaw that every one ſet up a different Mode from the former, and contended, with the moſt Unchriſtian Fury, for his own conceited Schemes; When they ſaw ſo many Inſtances of Sedition in the New Reformers; and beheld *Knox* and other Diſciples of *Calvin*, and even the whole General Aſſembly of Presbyterian Miniſters, oppoſing their Lawful Princes, and thro' unſufferable Pride and Arrogance, involving whole Nations in Blood and Confuſion: When they ſaw the violent Pretenſions and Practices of each Sect to propagate their Opinions, and the Bitterneſs wherewith they accuſed each other of Errors, left it very doubtful whether any of them were in the Right: That Unity was a Thing impoſſible to be expected from them; That the whole Reformation Abroad was founded on the Abolition of the Epiſcopal Dignity, which they were always taught to reverence, as intirely neceſſary for preſerving Order and Government in the Church; And that it was endeavour'd, and at laſt carry'd to be deſtroy'd, by the furious Efforts of Rebellious Fanaticks in the only Nation were it was eſtabliſh'd: When they beheld the Civil Wars of *England*, which made that unhappy Nation an *Aceldama*; the Murder of an Excellent Prince, even at the Doors of his own Palace; and the innumerable Blaſphemies and Schiſms which were ſpawn'd out of the Great Sect that began the Miſchief, and at laſt overwhelm'd both that and

the

the Kingdom: No wonder theſe miſerable Confuſions and Diviſions put a Stop to the Progreſs of the Goſpel: No wonder, That all Roman Catholick Princes having ſuch Provocations to inflame their firſt Principles, which are naturally violent, endeavour'd to exterminate, by Barbarous Maſſacres, by Fire, and Sword, the Profeſſors of a Religion, from which they apprehended the ſame ſhocking Conſequences; and that ſo invincible a Prejudice has been ever ſince rivetted in their Breaſts againſt a Religion which they thought allow'd of ſuch Practices, and which appeared to them to ſtruggle to lay its Dominion in Blood and Rebellion: ——Whereas, it is more than probable, that had the Church of *England* Diſcipline, which was eſtabliſhed on the moſt Deliberate Conſideration, and which keeps a *Medium* between Superſtition on one Hand, and Confuſion and Fanaticiſm on the other: A Diſcipline the beſt calculated in the World to preſerve the Prerogative of the Prince, and the Liberties of the People; and to promote Unity and Order in all Degrees of Men: Had this Excellent Eſtabliſhment been propagated Abroad inſtead of the furious and arrogating Diſcipline of *Geneva*, it is more than probable, I ſay, that all *Chriſtendom* would not have ſet Bounds to the Reformation; and that *Rome* itſelf, the now ſo-much-boaſted Center of Unity, would be remember'd for nothing but its ancient Triumphs, and preſent Conformity. I will not by further Apologies add to the Exorbitant Prolixity of this Letter: and remain,

SIR,

*Your Admirer and Humble Servant,*

ORTHODOX.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XLIII.

*Flectere ſi nequeo Superos, Acheronta movebo.* VIRG.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28. 1723.

THE following Letter came to Hand ſome Time ſince, but had the Misfortune to be miſlaid. As it ſeems deſign'd for General Benefit, and may be ſtill very ſeaſonable for the Information of many unwary People, I ſhall give it a Place in this Paper.

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

FOR the Publick Good, and in order to preſerve Perſons and Families from becoming a Prey to Harpies and Informers, I ſend you the following Obſervations on an Act paſſed in the laſt Seſſions of Parliament, iutituled, *An* ACT *to oblige all Perſons being Papiſts in that Part of* Great-Britain, *called* Scot-

Scotland, *and all Perſons in* Great-Britain, *refuſing or neglecting to take the Oaths appointed for the ſecuring of his Majeſty's Perſon and Government by ſeveral Acts herein mentioned, to regiſter their Names and real Eſtates.*

I. THIS Act extends to the ſeveral Perſons in the Circumſtances here under mentioned, though as yet very many of them think they are in no Danger from it, *viz.*

To Perſons intituled to any real Eſtates in Reverſion.

To Perſons intituled to real Eſtates in Remainder.

To Tenants that hold any Lands or Tenements by Leaſes for Term of Years.

To married Ladies that have Jointures in Lands or Tenements.

To married Ladies that can claim any Thing by Dower.

II. THE Penalty for the *bare Neglect* and *Omiſſion* of taking the Oaths by *Chriſtmas*, or in Default thereof, of Regiſtring Names and real Eſtates in ſuch Manner as the Act requires, is of ſuch kind, as if it were a Crime of a very high Nature, being no leſs than the Forfeiture of all ſuch Eſtate: And to the End it may be more effectual, One Third Part goes to the Proſecutor.

III. PERSONS ſcrupling to ſwear, as *Quakers* (for there is no Exception in this *Act* for ſuch) and all Perſons, who, by Reaſon of a very weak State of Health, or by being diſorder'd in Mind, are not able or fit to come Abroad, ſeem inevitably to fall under the Inconveniencies of this Law.

IV. BY

IV. BY this Act it will be a Flaw in the Title of any Eſtate, *any Number of Years hence*, and no Lawyer will paſs a Title, where it cannot be proved and made to appear that the Perſons now poſſeſſed, had taken the Oaths appointed by this Act; and in many Caſes it will be requiſite to prove that others likewiſe not in Poſſeſſion had taken the Oaths.

V. BY this Act, if the Certificate which is given on taking the Oaths, ſhould happen to be loſt thro' Negligence, or any other Means, and in divers other Caſes, the Title to many Peoples Eſtates may ſeem to depend on the Integrity of ſuch Officers as ſhall be intruſted with the Liſts of the Jurors Names; ſince by ſo eaſy a Piece of Forgery as that of erazing a Name, and inſerting any other in its Room (as was ſuſpected to be done by the Name of *Stangape* and others, in the late Times of general Frenzy) they may render it abſolutely impoſſible, in very many Inſtances, for a Perſon to prove he has taken the Oaths. And for their Pains, they may claim One Third of the Eſtate for themſelves, or any Body they ſhall ſet up to ſue for it.

I PRESUME my Correſpondent intends this Article as a particular Caution to the Ladies, who are generally not over careful of Papers of Conſequence, excepting thoſe of Gallantry.

To

## *To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR*,

AS you have inſerted in one of your former Papers the Loſs of the *Roman* Liberty pathetically bewail'd by *LUCAN*; I hope theſe Thoughts upon one of *Rome*'s greateſt Patriots will not be unacceptable. If you'll give them a Place in your Paper,

*You'll Oblige, Yours,*

N. B.

I.

As o'er the ſwelling Ocean's Tide
An Exile TULLY rode,
The Bulwark of the *Roman* State,
In Act, in Thought, a God,
The ſacred GENIUS of Majeſtick *Rome*
Deſcends, and *thus* laments *her* Patriot's Doom.

II.

*Farewel, renown'd in Arts, Farewel,*
*Thus conquer'd by thy Foe,*
*Of Honours, and of Friends depriv'd*
*In Exile muſt thou go:*
*Yet go content; thy Look, thy Will ſedate,*
*Thy Soul Superior to the Shocks of Fate.*

III. *Thy*

III.

*Thy Wiſdom was thy only Guilt,*
*Thy Virtue thy Offence,*
*With Godlike Zeal thou didſt eſpouſe*
*Thy Country's juſt Defence:*
*No ſordid Hopes could charm thy ſteady Soul,*
*No Fears, nor Guilty Numbers could controul.*

IV.

*What tho' the Nobleſt Patriots ſtood*
*Firm to thy ſacred Cauſe,*
*What tho' Thou couldſt diſplay the Force*
*Of Rhet'rick, and of Laws,*
*No Eloquence, no Reaſon could repel*
*Th' united Strength of* * CLODIUS, *and of Hell.*

V.

*Thy Mighty Ruin to effect*
*What Plots have been deviſ'd!*
*What Arts! what Perjuries been us'd!*
*What Laws and Rites deſpis'd!*
*How many Fools and Knaves by Bribes allur'd,*
*And Witneſſes by Hopes and Threats ſecur'd!*

VI.

*And yet they act their dark Deceit*
*Veil'd with a nice Diſguiſe,*
*And form a ſpecious Shew of Right*
*From Treachery and Lies;*
*With Arbitrary Pow'r the People awe,*
*And coin unjuſt Oppreſſion into Law.*

* For the Information of our unlearned Readers, we ſhall take Notice, That *CLODIUS*, who procur'd the Baniſhment of *CICERO*, was a lewd *Roman* Senator, and made Tribune of the People. That great Orator was afterwards recall'd by *POMPEY*, and *CLODIUS* was killed by *MILO*, a Perſon of Conſular Dignity; which the Genius of *ROME*, in the Two laſt Stanzas, is here made particularly to point at, as in a Prophetick Manner.

VII. *Let*

VII.

*Let* CLODIUS *now in Grandeur reign,*
*Let Him exert His Pow'r,*
*A Short-liv'd Monſter in the Land,*
*The Monarch of an Hour;*
*Let Pageant Fools adore their Wooden God,*
*And act againſt their Senſes at his Nod.*

VIII.

*Pierc'd by an untimely Hand*
*To Earth ſhall He deſcend,*
*Tho' now with gaudy Honours cloath'd,*
*Inglorious in his End.*
*Bleſt be the Man, who does his Pow'r defy,*
*And dares or truly Speak, or bravely Die.*

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XLIV.

*Corpus illi laborum tolerans, animus audax, ſui obtegens, in alios criminator, juxtà adulatio & ſuperbia. Palàm compoſitus pudor, intùs ſumma apiſcendi libido.* TACIT.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER, 1. 1723.

THERE is a very particular Story related by *HERODOTUS*, that recurs to me upon the Subject which I deſign for this Day's Entertainment. *Themiſtocles*, growing burthenſome to the States Confederate with *Athens*, among the reſt, laid Siege to the Iſland of *Andros*: And demanding thence an exorbitant Exaction, he ſent in Word to the Inhabitants, That the *Athenians* came back'd with Two powerful Goddeſſes, PERSUASION and FORCE, who would take no Denial. The Reply the Others made to this odd Menace, was, That *Athens* muſt needs be proſperous under ſuch Aſſiſtances; but that *Andros* likewiſe had a Brace of Deities on her Side, who had taken an unalterable

Affection to their Soil, POVERTY and IMPOSSIBILITY; and that these were as obstinate to listen to no Demands. That, therefore, all the Power of *Athens* could never get the better of their Islands *Inability*. The same Story is recounted by *Plutarch* with much Brevity, who quotes *Herodotus* for the Authority of it.

I LOOK upon *Themistocles*, in this Business, as playing the Part of a bad *Statesman*, who under Colour of collecting *Treasure* for the Government, was *harassing* its Friends, either to support his *own Cravings*, or to provide for *ill-founded Pensions*.

WHENEVER these Grievances are imposed on any Country, though it at first may have a Foundation to submit to them, it will soon be reduc'd to the Condition of *Andros*, POVERTY and IMPOSSIBILITY of *Payment*. The Consequences of the Latter will be *Factions* and *Discontents*, Murmurs at *Male-Administration*, and Attempts to throw off the *Oppression*.

AS often as any of these Calamities befal a Government, I believe one may venture to pronounce, That a *bad Statesman* is at the Head of Affairs. It may be objected, indeed, That whatever the Necessities of a Government are, the People are slow and unwilling to contribute to the Redress of them, and therefore think themselves pinch'd and distress'd whenever their Pockets are touch'd for the Publick. But it must be own'd too, on the other Hand, that the Populace have always Judgment enough to distinguish

guiſh between the *Taxes* of *Neceſſity*, and thoſe of *Oppreſſion* and *Wantonneſs*.

IT is the Happineſs and Security of theſe Nations, that though we were at any Time to have an avaritious Prince, and he were to be ſway'd by a corrupt Miniſter, yet we can have no Taxes extorted from Us, but ſuch as the *Support* of the *Royal Prerogative*, and the *Defence* of our *Great Liberties* demand. For it is well known, the Conſent of the Kingdom muſt be firſt had in its Parliament: And to our Honour be it ſaid, A *Free* ENGLISH *Parliament* are not, like the Senate of *Old Rome*, to be *traffick'd* with for their *Voices*, or bought over to a Faction that have *other Intereſts* in View than thoſe of their *Country*.

IT is pretty obvious to obſerve, if we will look Abroad into the *Political* World, that there are *Two* Sorts of *bad Stateſmen*; both of whom bring the ſelf-ſame Inconveniencies on a Land, but do not draw an equal Share of Prejudice and Odium on themſelves.

THE Firſt of theſe is the *Stateſman*, who, either to procure the Reputation of conſummate Policy, or otherways to ingratiate himſelf with his Prince, gets the *Subject* drain'd to inrich the *Treaſury*, but graſps at no immenſe Acquiſitions to *himſelf*, or *Family*. I think, I could point out Stateſmen of this Caſt of Thought, were it any thing to the Purpoſe, who have been of our own Growth.

THE Latter of Theſe is the *Stateſman*, who, having no Bowels of Compaſſion for his *Country*, nor any Regard for his *Prince*, makes a *Prey* of the

*Publick*, only to ſwell his *own* Fortunes. He has no Reſpect to the Hatred of the People, or what Sentiments they entertain of his Proceedings, ſo he can find the Means of humbling their Spirits, by weakning their Purſes, and perſecuting their Bodies. I hope I could not find a *Wretch* of this Stamp, that ever drew his Breath in *England*, had I Leiſure to *rack* my *Memory*, or *ranſack* our *Records*.

*SEJANUS* of *Rome*, infamous to lateſt Poſterity, was, I think, a *Stateſman* exactly of this Complexion. *Tacitus*, in the Words which I have prefix'd to this Diſcourſe, gives a ſuccinct, but comprehenſive, Character of him. *He was a Man*, ſays he, *indefatigable, and patient of the Fatigues of Buſineſs, of a bold and daring Spirit, careful to skreen himſelf, and buſy to accuſe Others; of a towring Pride, and condeſcending Flattery. To outward Appearance, one of Abſtinence and Moderation, but in his Soul, a Perſon of inſatiable Avarice and Craving.*

HIS *Ambition*, we find, led him to ingroſs a Number of *Employments*, as his *Thirſt* of *Wealth* prompted him to make the *moſt* of every one of them. He perſuaded his Prince to retire from *Rome*, and the Weight of Buſineſs, that he might have Opportunities to gratify his Ambitious Deſire of holding the Reins of Empire; for though the *Senate* were join'd with him in the *Stile* of *Power*, they were but *Cyphers* in the *Exerciſe* of it.

I HAVE heard it made a Subject of Wonder, that, ſo wiſe as *Sejanus* was, and ſo fickle as he knew *Tiberius* to be; when he had enjoy'd every Degree, and

and attain'd the Topmoſt Round of *Ambition*'s Ladder; when he had amaſs'd a Treaſure exorbitant almoſt as his Wiſhes could be; he did not covet to withdraw himſelf from Employments that made him the Mark of Univerſal *Envy*, and, as he managed them, of Univerſal *Hatred* too.

IT is reaſonable to imagine, that a Wiſe Man ſhould think it high Time to *retire*, and *reſign* his Employments, when he perceives that by his Conduct he has provok'd the *Diſaffection* of the People againſt him. And I preſume, it will be allow'd, that a *General Hatred* was never drawn upon any Man, without his being guilty of ſome *flagrant Corruptions* in his Adminiſtration.

BESIDES, when a *State-Officer* finds himſelf in theſe Circumſtances, if he had any *Love* for his *Prince* (who is in Danger of ſharing the Cenſure incurr'd by his *Miniſter*) or if he had the leaſt Grain of *Honeſty*, he would chuſe to ſatisfy his Fellow Citizens, by quitting his Preferments, when it is plain that he can oblige them no other Way.

I AM very apprehenſive, leſt it ſhould be objected to me, that I ſeem to forget that I am talking of *Stateſmen*. It is an Objection too not to be paſſed over in Silence, That as ſuch Officers as *Sejanus* was, do not take their Publick Offices with the Voice and Approbation of their Fellow Citizens, but to gratify their own Avarice and Luſt of Power; it would be abſurd to ſuppoſe that they ſhould reſign to pleaſe them. We ſhall find too, that ſuch Stateſmen, if we will take the Pains of judging by Retroſpection, are like our *Engliſh* Maſtives, who never quit their Hold,

unleſs they are forc'd to it by a ſtrong Hand. You may rate them, and call to them as long as you pleaſe, but 'tis in their Nature to *worry* the *Common-Wealth*, as long as ſhe has a Drop of *Blood* in her Veins.

FEW, therefore, if any, of theſe *State-Leeches* have ever been known to reſign but upon *Compulſion*. They have ſometimes fled, indeed, to avoid Juſtice, and ſo left an Employment vacant; but I ſcarce remember any *Voluntary Reſignation*.

WERE I to aſſume the *Divine*, I might infer, perhaps, That the Hand of *Providence* is concern'd in continuing theſe *iniquitous Stateſmen* in their Employments, 'till the *Reſentments* of their *Prince*, or the *Juſtice* of their *injur'd Country* overtake and call them to Account. The Vengeance of the Gods would not ſuffer ſuch a Wretch as *Sejanus* to die in Peace, whoſe Plots and Subornations had ſpilt the Blood of the Innocent, and drawn the Curſe of the blackeſt Murthers upon himſelf and Family. It was neceſſary he ſhould ſtand to Poſterity an Example and Monument of the Wrath of offended Heaven: and that the *Outrage* and *Indignities* ſhewn in his Puniſhment, ſhould ſeem to parallel the *Rage* and *Monſtrouſneſs* of his Actions. To this End, Deſtruction, in the fierceſt Manner, not only ſeized his *Perſon*; but the Fury of the Populace carried their Revenge, to the very *Statues* of him, and all the *Enſigns* of his *Honour*. *JUVENAL* has given ſo fine a Deſcription of this Part of their Revenge, that I cannot better conclude my Account of him, than by tranſcribing it as tranſlated by *DRYDEN*.

*Down*

*Down go the Titles; and the Statue crown'd,*
*Is by baſe Hands in the next River drown'd.*
*The guiltleſs Horſes, and the Chariot Wheel,*
*The ſame Effects of Vulgar Fury feel:*
*The Smith prepares his Hammer for the Stroke,*
*While the Lung'd Bellows hiſſing Fire provoke;*
SEJANUS! *almoſt Firſt of* Roman *Names,*
*The great* SEJANUS! *crackles in the Flames:*
*Form'd in the Forge, the pliant Braſs is laid*
*On Anvils, and of* Head *and* Limbs *are made*
Pans, Cans, *and* Piſpots, *a whole* Kitchen *Trade.*

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XLV.

*Parcite paucorum crimen diffundere in omnes.* OVID.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4. 1723.

THE following Letter ſeems ſo pathetically, and yet with ſo much Temper, to bewail the unhappy *Dilemma* to which the fair Writer is reduced, on Account of the late Act of Parliament which obliges the Sex to take the Oaths, or to Regiſter their Eſtates; that I cannot refuſe it a Place in this Paper, though the Requeſt contained in the laſt Paragraph thereof, is anſwered, as I conceive, by our Paper No. XLIII.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*October the 22d.* 1723.

*SIR,*

YOU being the only Champion that appears in Publick for the Female World, and that ſhews any Regard to the Weak Underſtanding and Want of Education in our Sex, which render us uncapable of judging

judging of Things as, perhaps, we ought; 'tis to you we pour out our Complaints; and I, in behalf of all our afflicted Sex, beg you would repreſent to our Superiors, in the moſt moving Manner poſſible, the great Perplexity this late Swearing Act has put us all in. For my own Part, I am under the greateſt Anxiety, having a ſmall Fortune, and a numerous Family: If I take the Oaths required of me, I ſwear to Things I have no certain Knowledge of; and the Author of *The Whole Duty of Man* tells me (Page the 100) "If I "ſwear to the Truth of that whereof I am only doubt-"ful, though the Thing ſhould happen to be true; "yet it brings upon me the Guilt of Perjury; for I "ſwear at a Venture, and the Thing might, for ought "I know, be as well falſe as true; whereas I ought "never to ſwear any thing the Truth of which I do "not certainly know." Then how ſhall I do this great Wickedneſs, and ſin againſt God? I, that am wholly ignorant of what I am to ſwear, and have not Senſe to judge of the Rights and Power of Parliament; which may make Things, to Men of Senſe, appear in a quite different Light? And if I neglect to take theſe Oaths, my little pretty Babes may want Subſiſtance; for 'tis with the utmoſt Care and Frugality that I at preſent maintain them, and cannot poſſibly do it if there be the leaſt Diminution of my Fortune. What Courſe ſhall I then take? Shall I give them Bread at the Expence of my own Quiet and Conſcience? or, Shall I ſee them want? 'Tis what no tender Mother can bear the Thought of.

AND this is not all our Grievance neither; for many of us have Husbands ſo zealous in this Affair, that they ſwear (for you know that is common with Men)

Men) if we do not take theſe Oaths, they will never ſee our Faces more. Here is a Diviſion made between Man and Wife, *and them whom God hath join'd, let no Man put aſunder.* 'Tis impoſſible to tell you all our Troubles: Let it ſuffice, that we have a Thouſand Uneaſineſſes within, and continual Broils without; *Husbands* againſt *Wives*, *Fathers* againſt *Daughters*, &c.; ſo that I almoſt believe (though don't care to ſwear) the World to be near its End.

WHAT have we done? or, What can we do? that we ſhould have this Hardſhip laid upon our Sex! a Sex ſo helpleſs and defenceleſs, that, had we the Inclination (as far be it from us) 'tis not in our Power to offend. We cannot take up Arms ourſelves, and we have no Influence over the Men 'tis plain, if we had, this Act had never paſs'd: Or if we would give our whole Eſtates to aſſiſt a Rebellion, our Sex would hardly be truſted with the Secret. Does not this Act, Sir, rather give Encouragement to our Enemies Abroad, who will imagine our State in a Sinking Way, when we catch at Straws to ſupport it; (for what can the Help of a Woman's Oath be more?) No, let our Superiors deſpiſe ſuch mean Aſſiſtance, and repeal this Act; give Eaſe to our tender Conſciences, and thereby ingage the Hearts of all the *Britiſh* Females.

BUT if there is no Pity, no Compaſſion due to our Weakneſs, Ignorance, and want of Judgment, and we (though of the eſtabliſh'd Church) muſt have leſs Favour than the *Quakers*, I beg Sir, you would let us know, Who by this Act are obliged to ſwear? Whether thoſe only that are in Poſſeſſion of their Eſtates?

Eſtates? or, Whether Wives muſt ſwear for their Joyntures, or for any Reverſionary Eſtates, tho' we may never live to enjoy them? for at our Tea-Tables we are much divided about it: And, dear *Briton*, aſſiſt us all you can in this Affair, and you ſhall for ever have the Prayers of

*Your Admirer*,

CONSCIENTIA.

WE have received divers Letters relating to the Performance of our Correſpondent ORTHODOX, and find that he ſhares a Fate common to all Writers, To be approved by ſome, and cenſur'd by others. The Deſign of this Paper is to inſtruct, and not to exaſperate the Minds of Men; and we could not refuſe to inſert a Correſpondence that tended to the Advantage of the Eſtabliſh'd Church, whoſe Proſperity we muſt look upon to be no ſmall Glory to the State, and intirely eſſential to the Welfare of our Excellent Conſtitution: And though we would not proſtitute our Paper to Controverſies and Diſputes of Contending Parties; yet whenever thoſe Letters can be anſwer'd by Matters of Fact, of equal Authority; when the Hiſtorical Paſſages therein can be refuted; and the Aſſertions and Tranſcripts from their own Writings, proved to be falſe quoted, or injurious to Truth, I ſhall not be backward to inſert ſuch Defence; provided the Style of a Gentleman appears equally in the Work, and Rage and Rudeneſs are not made to ſupply Reaſon and Argument; as is the Caſe in Two Scurrilous Letters which have been tranſmitted to my Hands; and which, after I have aſked Pardon of my Readers for the Shock their Ears will neceſſarily receive, I will inſert *Literatim*, as well to ſhew our

Cor-

reſpondent what ſort of Enemies he has irritated, as to confirm ſome of his own Obſervations upon them, and to introduce a Third Letter, that gives him much better Quarter, and makes a Requeſt to him, which I ſhall recommend to his Conſideration.

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

SEING your Paper fitted only for the Poſt——rs, wherein you ſeem to keep up a Diſtance amongſt His Majeſty's Subjects, thereby to weaken his Intereſt, that his Adverſaries, of which yourſelf I take to be one, may gain your baſe Ends. As for Calumnies on the *Diſſenters*, if you had read Mr. *Pairce*'s Vindication, a Book unanſwerable, and may remain 'till the General Deciſive Day, it might have ſilenc'd you, as will all that will take the Pains to peruſe it. As to Calumny and Detraction, it's ſo Natural to all Apoſtates, it but treading in the Steps of the Grand Original, that I admire Perſons are not aſhamed of ſo foul a Patron. Apoſtacy from Truth, *Libera Nos Domine.*

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

AFTER you had ſo juſtly and prudently ſhewed forth Villany to be odious and abhorred, though made uſe of by People of never ſo great Power, wherby all honeſt Hearts could not but give you Thanks, then afterwards to be led Captive by the Devil and his Tools, to blaſpheem and ſpeak againſt the only Wiſe and Bleſſed Merciful Goodneſs of God to ſave Multitudes from the Artifice of the Devil and his Inſtruments

ſtruments, is Monſtrous and Vile, that you make all honeſt People hate your Paper; for all your Letters ſign'd ORTHODOX ſtink of Hell; God give you Grace to repent, if it be His Bleſſed Will.

I THINK none could have wiſhed you better than myſelf for your Papers, excepting your Letters of ORTHODOX.

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR*,

YOUR Letters ſigned ORTHODOX give a General Satisfaction to all True Lovers of our Excellent Church; and the rather, becauſe your Manner of treating the Subject is intirely New, and different from that of Controverſial Writers: For you content yourſelf with tracing them down from their Original by undeniable Matters of Fact, and omitting all that might be juſtly taken Notice of (and which has been largely handled by others) with Regard to the Doctrinal and Diſputable Points, wherein they vary from the Eſtabliſh'd Church, and many of them from the Holy Scriptures, and even from Chriſtianity itſelf; and thereby leave Mankind to judge of them by their *Fruits*, which is the Teſt eſtabliſh'd by the Redeemer of the World to diſcover Hypocrites by, in thoſe Verſes, which all who have read your Papers, muſt apply to this Set of Men, *Matt.* vii. 16. *Beware of falſe Prophets, which come to you in* Sheeps Cloathing, *but* inwardly *they are* Ravening Wolves. *Ye ſhall know them by their* FRUITS: *Do Men gather* Grapes *of* Thorns, *or* Figs *of* Thiſtles? *&c.* But notwith-

withſtanding the Pleaſure given me by their Peruſal, I cannot chuſe to wonder, that you ſhould leave the Subject at the *Revolution*; when ſo large a Field is left from their Practices ever ſince, as well as their Preachments; to trace them down to the preſent Time: And when their uncharitable Conteſts among one another ſo very lately, about the Divinity of our Bleſſed Lord, which has diſcover'd ſuch Errors among them, are ſo freſh in Memory. What I would humbly requeſt is, That you will be pleaſed to tranſmit to Poſterity the remaining Part of their Hiſtory, which will manifeſt to the World, that many of *theſe* pretended *Reformation-mongers*, have proved *themſelves* as bad Chriſtians, as their *Anceſtors* were Subjects.

*I am*, SIR,

*Your Admirer*, &c.

PHILO-ORTHOD.

WE have received a Second Letter from our fair Correſpondent PHILOCLEA, and at her Requeſt ſhall not publiſh her former; although our Deſign, had we done it, would only have been to convince her how kindly we take her friendly Reproof and Admonitions, and at the ſame Time demonſtrate the Chearfulneſs wherewith we would acknowledge an Error.

THE Letter ſign'd *G. H.* and dated from *York*, *October* 18. is come to Hand, and ſhall meet with proper Regard.

AS

AS it is not our Deſign willfully to offend, and draw down the Reſentment of our Superiors, we muſt deſire the Gentleman who ſtiles himſelf ARRUNTIUS, to excuſe our not inſerting his Letter.

AGATHOCLES is deſired to give a Tranſlation of his *Ethiopic* Quotation in Character, leſt if we ſhould inſert it, the *Decyphering Sages* may GUESS at it to its Diſadvantage.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XLVI.

——— *In malos Aſperrimus*
*Parata tollo Cornua.* HOR.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8. 1723.

IN my ſeveral Diſcourſes of what may be done for the Good of the Publick, by all Ranks and Degrees of Men, I have not taken ſufficient Notice of the *Power* and *Merits* of a *Good* and *Honeſt* WRITER. The Qualities and Faculties of *Authors*, according to the general Run at *preſent*, may, perhaps, not without good Reaſon, be deemed trivial and inſignificant; But if we look upon them at Times when *Eloquence* flouriſhed, we ſhall diſcover them making a very different Figure in the Eyes of Men: And let the *greateſt Perſonages*, that are called the Men of *buſy* and *active Life*, frame of them what Imaginations they pleaſe, they will for ever find, that Men of *Polite Application*, who are fam'd for *Learning*, *Wit* and *Eloquence*, will fill up ſome Im-

Important Scene in every Publick Action that is repreſented on the Theatre of the World.

I KNOW it is thought by many, that *Publick Praiſes* or *Diſpraiſes*, though never ſo rightly diſtributed, for *Good* or *Evil Actions*, have *leſs Power* than they really have, though it is certain they have not ſo much Efficacy as they ſhould.

THAT much-talk'd of Panegyriſt and Satiriſt *ARETIN*, ſays indeed, *That he thought the Great Men in his Time Fools, that, ſince they were not afraid of incurring the Wrath of Heaven, they ſhould be apprehenſive of his Strokes of Satire.* But the Learned Mr. *BAYLE* very juſtly and judiciouſly corrects him upon this Head. *This Reaſoning*, ſays that diſcerning Scholar, *will not hold; for the Fear of Men makes us abſtain from a Thouſand Things, which we ſhould ſcarce abſtain from, if we had no other Dread upon us, but that of the Divine Vengeance.*

FROM hence it is plainly deducible, That a *Popular Author*, who has got a great Power of giving Praiſe or Diſpraiſe, ought to be very cautious where he gives it: That he has an Ability of doing a great deal of Good, or a World of Miſchief: He ought to act upon the Principles of Juſtice and Courage; for he undertakes a Buſineſs of great Importance, that deſerves a more ſerious Conſideration than we are apt to beſtow upon it.

THE Character of a Publick Writer, therefore, muſt of neceſſity be, in its own Nature, very Infamous, or very Glorious.

TO *defend Truth*, to *detect Falſhood*; to give *Praiſe-worthy Men* their *due* Characters, and ſo to warm and incite them to *farther Virtues*; to *oppoſe* thoſe that are *powerful in Vice*, and to *chaſtiſe* any *Publick Corruptions* whenever they appear, are illuſtrious Marks of great *Fortitude* and *Juſtice*.

TO *palliate Truth*, to *advance Falſhood*, to offer the Incenſe of *flattering Praiſe* to any Man, merely becauſe he is *Great* in *Poſt*, though *Little*, *Mean*, and *Abject* in *Soul*; to *calumniate depreſs'd Merit*, and *propagate Scandals* concerning either the *Living*, or the *Dead*, that are or were Men of *uncorrupted Integrity*: Theſe are the Higheſt Tokens of *Puſillanimity*, *Baſeneſs*, and *Falſeneſs* of Heart.

IT is ſo impolitical a Thing for a Writer to give Praiſes were they are not truly merited, that, let him be never ſo much an Orator, he robs himſelf of the Power of his Eloquence, and no Man, that was *really* Good and Great, would ever afterwards thank him for his good Word. On the other Hand, ſpreading about a Scandal, or a Calumny, upon a worthy Perſon, is ſtill worſe for the *Author* of it, than the Error of Flattery: For after a Man hath once branded himſelf for a *Retailer of Falſhoods*, he muſt fall under the Inconveniency of not being believed, even when he ſpeaks Truth.

AND yet there is ſuch a Prevalence, even in falſe Satire itſelf, that it will give ſome Pain to an Honeſt Mind, though it is known to come from an Unworthy Hand, that deſerves all the Obloquy which it deals about it.

*ARCHI-*

*ARCHILOCHUS* a *Greek* Poet, was ſo famous, or rather infamous in this Way, that he was called *The Torrent of Slander*. He wrote ſo virulent a Lampoon upon one *Lycambus*, who had promiſed that Poet his Daughter in Marriage, and afterwards broke his Word, that he hang'd himſelf. This Writer was of a Lewd and a Licentious Life; He was like Envy, who is ſaid, when ſhe is incapable of puniſhing others, to take a Pleaſure in tormenting herſelf: So he, when he had no body elſe to fall upon, and ſatisfy his Spirit of finding Fault, wrote a Satire againſt his own Vices; and it was as great a Pity that when he did it, it ſhould not have had the ſame Effect upon him afterwards, that it had before upon *Lycambus*; as it was a Pity that whatever ſuch a Miſcreant could utter, ſhould affect with any Pain the Hearts of his Honeſt Cotemporaries, whom he abuſed.

*ARETIN* was as Wicked and as Lewd a Man, as the former; and yet he boaſts, That he laid all the Great Men of his Age, and even Sovereign Princes themſelves, under Contribution, to bribe him to lay a Reſtraint upon this Unlucky Talent. And yet this *Aretin* too, was as laviſh of his Praiſes. In his fulſome Epiſtles which he writes to Generals of Armies, Cardinals, Princes, and Kings, his Applauſes are all *Hyperboles*, and his Flatteries are ſtrain'd and extravagant.

FOR my Part, I muſt own, my Thoughts are, That any Man *truly Great*, who had lived at either of thoſe Times when *Archilochus* or *Aretin* flouriſhed in all the Power of their keen Capacities, would

not have lain under any diſmal Apprehenſions of being calumniated by Men of ſuch criminal Lives. It is a certain Truth, That there is ſcarce any thing ſo difficult for a Generous Mind to bear, as calumnious Reproaches and Invectives; but when a Man is perfectly Conſcious to himſelf, that he has never incurr'd the Guilt upon the Suppoſition of which they are form'd, his Soul muſt grow calm and eaſy upon that wholeſome Reflection; nay, he will even *pity* the *Men*, and *contemn* the *Malice*. I am therefore wonderfully pleaſed with a Letter that was written to *Aretin* by the Marquis *del Guaſto*, in which, with a great deal of Humour, he ſeems to triumph handſomely over the Keenneſs of that Satiriſt.

THE Marquis exhorts him to *continue* his Way of Writing, and deſires, that *himſelf* might not be exempt; but that his Faults might be laid before him by *Aretin*, and ſo cenſured, that he might be obliged to amend; and that others who had the ſame Defects pointed out, might, bluſhing, recover their falſe Steps, and fly over from the Side of Vice to that of Virtue.

IF the Efficacy of Praiſe and Diſpraiſe be ſo great, when the Power of them is lodged in *wicked Hands*, what Prevalence will Eloquence have when it is in the Poſſeſſion of a Perſon of *known Integrity* and *Virtue*?

THE *Good* and *Great* muſt be glad to place the Principal of their Fame in ſuch reputable Hands, from whence they muſt be ſure to receive the Return of it with proper Intereſt. The *Wicked Great*, howſoever

ſoever Haughty or Powerful they may be, muſt tremble, when ſuch a Man draws his Pen in behalf of the Publick, leſt he ſhould caſt but a ſingle Eye towards the criminal Side of their Characters; For they know he will have Courage enough to attack them, and ſo turn their Height to their Diſadvantage; and by how much the more Conſpicuous they are, he will render them the more conſpicuouſly Infamous.

AND yet it is certain, that oftentimes Men receive more Damage by pointing Satires at Vices than at Virtues; becauſe Virtuous Men can forgive even *Calumny*, but Wicked Ones will ſcarce ever pardon *Truth*: So true is that Saying of Mr. *Dryden*;

*Forgiveneſs to the Injur'd does belong;*
*But they ne'er pardon, who have done the Wrong.*

But yet this ought rather to excite the Courage, than depreſs the Hearts of thoſe, who undertake to be the Publick Oppoſers and Cenſurers of Vice; as will appear by the following Inſtances of Three Great Men, that were ruin'd by uſing thoſe Arts well; though *Archilochus* and *Aretin* flouriſhed by the Abuſe of them.

THE firſt Example that I ſhall name is SOCRATES, There was ſcarce a vicious Man in *Athens* of any Figure and Remark, whom he had not labour'd to bring over from the Intereſts of Impiety, and to reconcile to the Cauſe of Virtue; and he made as ſucceſsful a Progreſs as all the prevailing Powers of an eloquent Orator, join'd with the convincing Arguments and Demonſtrations of a ſolid and profound Philoſopher (not to ſay a Divine) could poſſibly effect.

*Melitus* and *Ariſtoxenus*, two ſmooth-tongu'd Informers, two ſly Declaimers in the Cauſe of Vice, accuſed this great Reformer, of Corrupting the *Grecian* Youth; and carry'd their Point ſo far, that *Cunning*, which often deceives the Majority of Men, who are weak of Underſtanding, got the better of *True Wiſdom*, which is diſcernable only to the Few, and work'd the Downfal and the Death of *Socrates*. *Euripides*, to reproach the *Athenians* with this Murder, compoſed his *Palamedes*; in which, under the Name of that Hero, who likewiſe fell oppreſs'd with Calumnious Falſhoods, he deplores the Misfortune of his Friend; And it happen'd that when an Actor pronounc'd this Verſe,

*From the moſt Juſt of all the* Greeks *you ſnatch the Life away*,

All the Audience, ſuſpecting the Poet's Meaning, ſhed Tears at the Remembrance of *Socrates*; inſomuch, that it was at that Time forbid to ſpeak more of him in Publick. However, while his Accuſers led an infamous Life, and made as infamous an End, Statues and Medals, and even a Temple called ΣΩΚΡΑΤΕΙΟΝ, was conſecrated to the Memory of *Socrates*; whom, methinks, one may juſtly call a kind of *Martyr for the Truth*.

THE next I ſhall name was PHOCION: He was a Man that had ſerv'd his Country with a long Series of Succeſs in the different Qualities of a *Soldier*, a *Stateſman* and an *Orator*. He was always a ſtrenuous and an effectual Oppoſer of Falſehood; Inſomuch that *Demoſthenes*, who lies under the Ill Fame of receiving frequent Bribes, and appearing on the

the wrong Side for the Sake of Lucre, uſed to call *Phocion*, *The Ax that cut down his Arguments*; And yet, Powerful as he was in Oratory, and Superior even as he owns himſelf, to the renown'd *Demoſthenes*, yet He, this *Phocion!* fell a Victim for the Truth. The pernicious Eloquence of one *Demades*, who was not to be called an *Orator*, but a *Declaimer*, and *Sower of Sedition*; who was not a *Philoſopher*, but a *baſe* and a *vile Sophiſter*; who was not a *wiſe Stateſman*, but a *cunning*, *falſe* and *crafty Politician*, brought this glorious Patriot to a *ſeeming* Legal End, and the blind People, whom he had preſerved, voted or rather vociferated for his Death.

THE Third is CICERO, that Orator, whom Mr. *Cowley* mentioning, ſays,

*His bleſt Tongue and Wit*
*Preſerves* Rome's *Greatneſs yet.*

And this is really his true Character: For while he was even in the higheſt Poſts of Authority, it was by the Force of his Eloquence, that he brought about all the great Actions he performed. It was that which made him ſo hated, and at the ſame Time ſo dreaded, by the wicked *Clodius*; It was by that he defended a poor helpleſs Province, againſt a powerful and wicked Viceroy *Verres*, who made uſe of his Greatneſs to ſtarve, ruin and oppreſs what that Greatneſs was intruſted to him to nouriſh, proſper, and protect: It was by this Gift of his Eloquence, that he turned into Clemency the Wrath of *Ceſar*; He did more than *Pompey*, and preſerved againſt thoſe who conquer'd, that Army which was vanquiſh'd and beaten. He ſhewed *Rome*, the greateſt Empire of the World,

that it had done, as it ought, a Good to its Own ſelf, when it conſtituted ſuch an Orator as he was, the Greateſt Man in it, and made him its *Conſul*. It proved no leſs than the Preſervation of that Commonwealth, which had otherwiſe infallibly met with utter and unavoidable Ruin and Deſtruction from *Cataline*, and his factious Adherents. He ſaved *Rome* from the arbitrary Power of *Anthony*, (whoſe debauch'd Principles he has ſet forth to the World's open View, in the ſharpeſt Invectives that were ever Penn'd) by raiſing up the good *Octavius* to be his Equal. But yet, for all this, He met with his own Death, his own Overthrow at laſt, from which the Endeavours of his whole Life were form'd to defend all the Good Men of his Country, and his Country itſelf. It was *Anthony* gave the Orders, and *Herennius*, an Officer with a Band of Soldiers, beſet and murder'd him.

BUT ſtill theſe Inſtances ought to be ſo far from deterring Good Men from taking the Part of Truth, that, on the contrary, whenſoever the Tide of powerful Falſhood runs high againſt them, they ought to endeavour to ſtem it with true Courage: And that they may make the honeſt Fortitude of *Modern Britons* rival that of the *Antient Greeks* and *Romans*, they ought to place before their Eyes the Great Perſons whom I have named, as Glorious Examples and Patterns of True Reſolution.

FOR who is there, that had not rather be the accuſed SOCRATES, than be like his Infamous Accuſers *Melitus* and *Ariſtoxenus*? Who had not rather be unjuſtly ſentenced to Death like PHOCION, than

than be the Pleader for ſo unjuſt a Sentence with *Demades*? Who had not rather be the murder'd CICERO, than either the Orderer of his Murther *Anthony*, or his Murderer *Heremius*?

NOT to allow theſe Truths, is to ſay in Effect, what no Man is harden'd enough to aver publickly, That the Life of a Falſe Informer, a Lying Pleader, and a Wilful Murderer, is preferable to the Death of a Juſt, Upright and Honeſt Man. ——— ———

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XLVII.

*Homines ad Deos nulla re propius accedunt, quam ſalutem hominibus dando.* CIC.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11. 1723.

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

SINCE we are obliged to take the Oaths, I cannot help thinking, that our Sex makes a much more conſiderable Figure in this Kingdom, than it ever did before.

I MUST farther own it frankly, to be gravely and ſincerely my Opinion, That, as we are become, by ſuch ſolemn Engagements, ſignificant Members of the Body Politick, we have a kind of Right and Claim to communicate our Thoughts upon Matters relating to the Publick Welfare with as much Freedom as any *Male-Briton* whatſoever.

I DO not know what Single Men may think, but all Married Men muſt know, that, where our Intereſts are equally concerned, we Women ever thought ourſelves equally privileged to declare our Sentiments, eſpecially if we apprehended any great Grievances from our Silence.

The whole Sex muſt be obliged to own your Extraordinary Complaiſance in this Point, ſince you freely indulge us with the Favour of being your Correſpondents, and ſpeaking our Minds publickly upon thoſe Affairs which publickly concern us.

YET, though we are made happy in this Liberty, we expreſs ourſelves wholly in Complaints, without taking the more proper Method of explaining what we could reaſonably propoſe or deſire, to put an End to thoſe Complaints. The whole Sex ſeems to be overwhelm'd, as it were, with a Deluge of Sorrow and Confuſion; and though there are ſo many Thouſands of them, that are as political as the Men in their own private Affairs, there has not been one, that has given herſelf Time to think of a proper Expedient to lay before the Great Men for their Relief in this general Perturbation and Hurry; ſo true is that Saying, *That what is every Body's Buſineſs, is ſeldom made the Buſineſs of any one Body whatſoever*.

THE Caſe of the afflicted Lady *CONSCIENTIA*, which you lately publiſhed, was, indeed, but very lately my own unhappy Caſe. —— I am a Widow, whom Fortune has bleſs'd with pretty comfortable Poſſeſſions; but I have ſeveral Young Children,

dren, and, I muſt own, I was a long Time perplex'd with the ſame Doubts and Difficulties of Conforming to the Oaths, with which that unfortunate Lady (I heartily pity her!) is ſtill making a hard Struggle.

THE Fear and Dread that a Conſcience truly Scrupulous has of entring into ſuch ſolemn Engagements as Oaths upon any Subject of which the Certainty is above the Reach of its Enquiries, is not to be expreſs'd by the Pen of the moſt wiſe and judicious Man alive, however, ſome Simple and Vain Men are pleas'd to ridicule it; and, therefore, how hard is it to be endured by the Heart of a poor weak and ignorant Woman? Again, the Fear and Affection which a tender Mother bears to the Offspring of her own Bowels, in their younger Years eſpecially, are ſuch delicate and exquiſite Touches of Nature, as it is not within the Power of Man even to conceive. —— How much greater are the Emotions and the Pangs of the Soul upon theſe Occaſions, than the Body feels in bringing them forth with hardeſt Labour? Imagine then, if it be poſſible you ſhould imagine, what muſt be the Struggle between the *Conſcience* of a Mother at this Time, which on the one Hand, dreads complying with the Oaths for fear of endangering her Soul; and her Worldly Terror on the other Hand, of being deemed guilty for Non-compliance to take them; the Shocking Conſequence of which repreſents to her, Herſelf and her poor Infants, through the Means of *Her* who ſhould by Nature nouriſh and protect them, expoſed to the Peril of a Periſhing Condition —— Dear BRITON, You *may* gueſs at this Extremity of Anguiſh —— It is *barely* poſſible that you *may faintly* gueſs at it! —— But I have *felt* it; and therefore

fore *Nature* calls upon me to plead for thoſe, who are in your CONSCIENTIA's Caſe, and feel it *ſtill*.

IT is true, as for myſelf, I overcame theſe Difficulties, and being convinced by the Reaſons that follow, took the Oaths, and am now intirely at Eaſe with regard to my own Perſon; and yet not *ſo intirely* at Eaſe neither, but that I every now and then feel great Pain, when a whole Circle of beautiful Ladies, with whoſe Acquaintance and frequent Viſits I am honour'd, and whom I know to be prudent and virtuous, and well-affected to the Government, refuſe, after I have laid before them all the moſt cogent Reaſons I can, and that induced me to take them.

ONE Day when the fair Aſſembly met together, I ventured to accuſe PRUDENTIA of not acting according to the Diſcretion ſhe was reputed to have, for not taking the Oaths as I adviſed her. She anſwered me with much Modeſty, That ſhe did not ſet up for the Reputation of Wiſdom, and that in the Senſe we were ſpeaking, ſhe would rather be *Spiritually Innocent*, than *Worldly Wiſe*; That ſhe was tender of doing Wrong, and ſcrupulous of acting what ſhe did not underſtand, and binding herſelf under the moſt ſolemn Oaths to declare any Thing a *Certainty*, tho' ſhe knew it to be the *greateſt Probability* in the World. I then replyed, that ſhe was not certain of her own Conſcience; but that it was a Thing certain, that ſhe muſt obey the Government; and therefore, according to an Archbiſhop's Words, *She ought to reject that doubtful Conſcience, and ſtick to the latter, which was undoubted.* To this ſhe reply'd, That her own Conſcience muſt be her Judge, and either accuſe

or

or acquit her; and consequently, that it must be her *only* Guide. I then told her, That as several Learned Men had agreed on the like Occasion, she might very well suspect her own Conscience to be erroneous, because she alone, at that Rate, would seem to controll all the Wisdom of the Greatest and Learnedest Men of the whole Realm, who had made and taken it. PRUDENTIA reply'd, That all Divines agreed to what CONSCIENTIA quotes out of the Author of the *Whole Duty of Man*, viz. *That if I swear to the Truth of that whereof I am only doubtful, though the Thing should happen to be true, yet it brings upon me the Guilt of Perjury*, &c. And some Divines, said she, have not even agreed to take the Oaths; So that I, concluded she, have the Majority of Learned Men *for* me, and not *against* my Opinion.

TO this I must own, I could not make an immediate Answer: Upon which SIMPLICIA and INNOCENTIA, Two Beautiful and Virtuous Young Ladies, added immediately, That they were too Young to know as a *Certainty* what they apprehended they were to swear; and therefore, would not comply: But that they would willingly swear at the same Time, *That their not taking the Oaths, was not out of any Enmity to the Government*; for which they declared, and I believe they had, an Affection: But that it was *purely* because they had not a *full* and *perfect Certainty* of what they were to swear by those Oaths; and therefore were afraid of Endangering their Souls. And then very wisely censuring those, who, in an impious Sense, say, They would sooner trust *God* with their *Souls*, than *Men* with their *Estates*, they averr'd, with Tears in their Eyes,

Eyes, That they were afraid they muſt loſe their Expectations in this World.

I MUST own to you, Dear BRITON, that notwithſtanding I am in the main convinced that I have done right in what I have done, and can anſwer it to my own Conſcience with Safety, (or elſe I would not have done it to preſerve my own, or even to obtain the greateſt Fortunes and Honours in the World) yet ſuch Diſcourſes falling from the Lips of theſe certainly Innocent, though miſtaken People, ſhock me ſtrangely at Times, and ruffle and diſcompoſe that Calm of Soul which I have always ſtudied to preſerve from all ſuch troubleſome Invaſions. And indeed, when I have argued down my own Mind into Peace again, by the Means of further Reflection, I cannot ſtill help feeling a very ſenſible Compaſſion for ſuch tender Conſciences as cannot get over theſe Doubts. It is certain, they deſerve Reſpect from all honeſt Hearts, ſince, if it is their Error to ſhrink from the Oaths which with Safety they might embrace, yet as *they* think not ſo, it is, methinks, not only a *pardonable*, but a *beautiful* Error in the *Virtuous Blind*, that they are ſo *tenderly* afraid of wounding their Conſciences with the leaſt Remorſe.

OUT of Perſons, who have ſuch honeſtly-formed and ſuch piouſly-regulated Minds, and who ſcruple to do the leaſt Thing which may offend that *Inward Judge* of both our Honour and Virtue called *Conſcience*; Out of them, I ſay, are to be choſen the *beſt Friends*, The moſt *ſincere Companions*, The *kindeſt Miſtreſſes* of *Families*, The moſt *faithful Servants*, The *tendereſt Mothers*, The moſt *obedient Daughters*, The

The *beſt-natur'd Siſters*, and The moſt *endearing Wives*: In fine, The moſt *ornamental* and *beneficial* Members of every Claſs of Society upon Earth. Muſt it not then be painful to a generous Mind to conſider, that ſuch People particularly, above all the reſt of the World, ſhould be made liable to any Diſtreſs upon Account of that *very Tenderneſs* of *Conſcience*; however miſtaken in *one Thing*, that makes them ſo eminently valuable in *all* the other Stations, and in *every other* Duty of Life.

THIS, if Female Politicks might avail, has put me upon racking my Thoughts to find, Whether I could form an acceptable Scheme for their Relief; and I think I have at laſt found out one very practicable Method, by which the Women may be obliged to take an Oath, which would at one and the ſame Time, be equally conſiſtent with the Security of the Government, as if they took all the Oaths now preſcribed, and yet not at all obnoxious to the Tenderneſs of their own Conſciences.

WHAT I would humbly propoſe, is, That thoſe who are too ſcrupulous to take the Oaths in the Form they are now adminiſtred, may ſwear, That they do not refuſe them out of Obſtinacy; That they do not refuſe them becauſe they either are, or will be involved in the Guilt of bearing any *Civil Enmity* againſt the Government; but purely for the Sake of *Conſcience*, as being loth to ſwear what they do not *Poſitively* and *Abſolutely* know for a *Certainty*.

THIS would as effectually bind them to be good Subjects, as all the Oaths now offer'd to them; and all that take this Oath may be depended upon to ſwear Truth; or, if not, how could they be more depended upon

upon by taking any others, though even a Thousand in Number?

HOW many Uneasy Families would this quiet? How many disturb'd Consciences would it calm? To how many restless and innocent Ladies would this Procedure of our Men in Authority and Power, give Content?

THE Lords and Commons of *England* are such Fine Gentlemen, that they have always passed for the Ladies of this Kingdom, Laws which are more favourable to the Sex, than are to be found establish'd by any other Assembly of Legislators under the Heavens.

THE Reverend Bench of Bishops would infallibly come into any reasonable Method, as this certainly is, of giving Consciences truly scrupulous all possible Satisfaction: So that, methinks, this Project needs nothing but being known, to be put in Execution to the Content of every TRUE BRITON; and therefore I chuse to communicate it by the Means of your Paper; In which if you give it a Place you will oblige,

*Your Admirer,*

MISERICORDIA.

WE have received the Letter sign'd *PHILO-EPISCOPUS*, and cannot sufficiently commend the Wit and Humour contained in it. But as we take it to be too severe a Reflection on a Right Reverend Bench, and many of the dignify'd Clergy, we must desire to be excus'd the inserting of it in the TRUE BRITON.

AND, indeed, we cannot but differ in Opinion with the ingenious Author, who accounts many Things cenſurable, which, we think, ought to be eſteem'd the peculiar Happineſs of the *preſent Times*, and a Glory to the *Preſent* Set of *Prelates*: That *blind Submiſſion* which he ſays they pay to the *Diſpenſers* of *Preferments* and *Tranſlations*, what is it but the Laudable Conſequences of *Implicite Obedience* to Governors, which has always been held as an eſſential Doctrine of the Church?

THOSE *Rights* which he ſays they are ſo *remiſs* in *Defending*, does it not demonſtrate, The *truly Primitive Spirit* of thoſe Reverend Worthies, who for *Peace* as well as for *Conſcience-Sake*, ſtand not upon thoſe *High Pretenſions* which were wont to be conteſted for with ſo much *Vehemence* by the *turbulent Prelates* of *former Ages*, to the *indangering the Peace* of the *Church*?

IF they appear to him *too complaiſant* to the *Diſſenters*, it ſhould be remember'd, that they are commanded *To let their Moderation be known unto all Men*; and we have the Pleaſure of ſeeing this *Complaiſance* produce *proper* Effects; for do not the *Diſſenters* in general, who were wont to *calumniate* that *Sacred Dignity*, now expreſs ſo much Value for the *Perſons* of our *Biſhops*, that, if poſſible, they *exceed* the *Genuine Sons* of the *Church* on that Head?

AS to his Obſervation of the *ſmall Number* of thoſe Reverend Fathers, who appeared againſt the *Quakers* Bill; May it not be, That they would *overcome Evil with Good*, and convince that *obſtinate* People, that the *Reproaches* they have heretofore faſten'd on the

*Sacred*

*Sacred Order* as *Prieſts* of *Baal*, and as *Hirelings*, are perfectly Groundleſs?

UPON the Whole, I think I may aſſert, That theſe *truly Apoſtolical* Men, have ſhewn, in *every Inſtance* that has been *required* of them, that they have a Title to boaſt with Holy *Paul*, *That unto the* Jews, *they became* Jews, *that they might gain the* Jews: *That to them that were under the* Law, *and to them that were without* Law, *they became conformable, that they might ſave both: That to the* Weak, *they became as* Weak, *that they might gain the* Weak: *And finally, That they are made* All Things *to* All Men, *that they may, by* All Means, *ſave ſome*, 1 Cor. ix. 20, 21, 22.

THE

# TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XLVIII.

*Solâ Judicis Juſtitia eſt Patientia.* CICERO.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15. 1723.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

THERE is not any Great Officer in the Service of the Publick, that requires ſo many good and excellent Qualities to make him equal to the high Station he fills, as a JUDGE, who ought to be a Man of innate Goodneſs and Probity, as well as of great Learning and Experience; ſince the Lives, the Liberties and Properties of his Fellow-Subjects, are, in a great meaſure, at his Mercy and Diſpoſal.

IT is not the *Greateſt Lawyer* that always makes the *Beſt Judge*: If Nature hath not been liberal to him, in vain doth he ſeek the Helps of Art and Induſtry. *Jethro*, in his Counſel to *Moſes* for appointing Judges over the Children of *Iſrael*, ſaith, *They muſt be Men of Courage, and Men of Truth, fearing*

*fearing God, and hating Covetousness.* The Direction is excellent and just, worthy the Wise Counsellor that gave it: It is a Lesson for all succeeding Ages to learn and follow; for a Man not thus endowed, can be hardly capable to discharge the Great Duty of that Office with Impartiality.

*COVETOUSNESS* in a Man that presides on the Bench, is a very dangerous Ingredient, and pernicious in its Consequences to the Publick, the Affairs of which he will neglect to gratify his *private Views*; The *SELF* will be ever predominant, and his Hand always open to the *Impediments* or Hindrances of Justice; the Rich and Great having nothing to fear from the Decisions of a *Covetous* Judge, but only when they contend with such as are yet Greater and more Rich, whilst the Poor perish in their own Poverty. Instances of this may be seen in the Life of our Great King *Edward* III. who caused divers of such corrupt Judges to be severely punished; and thereby justly satisfy'd those Laws which they had unjustly and shamefully abused.

*AMBITION* is another Passion, that ought not to have a Place in the Bosom of a *Judge*: That restless Appetite is never so incompatible with the General Good of Mankind, as in a Person of that Character. There it Elbows out all other Considerations, but what are conducive to raise its own particular Views: The Affairs of the *Crown*, oppos'd to those of a *private Subject*, have ever met with *Notable* Regard from Men of this unhappy Disposition. The Reigns of *Henry* VII. and *Charles* II. abound with incontestible Proofs of such *Loyalty* on the Bench: The

*Puiſne* Judge, to ſhew himſelf qualified for the Place of a *Chief*, took every Opportunity to demonſtrate his implicit Attachment to, and Compliance with, the Exorbitances of the Court; whilſt the *Chief*, maligning all thoſe in his Way, generally caſt his inſatiate Eyes upon Preferments yet higher.

INDEED, Chief-Juſtice *Pemberton*'s Removal from the *King*'s *Bench* to the *Common Pleas*, is a fine Exception to this general Rule of Miſconduct in thoſe Days of Partiality. But this was owing to his *Honeſty*; for Nature had made him incapable of going through the cruel Drudgery of the deſigning Courtiers of thoſe Times. He could not bear to be dictated to by Men in Power, nor would he come pre-determined to the Bench; Having always a greater Propenſion to *ſave*, than to *deſtroy*.

A VIOLENT *Party-Man* cannot be an upright Judge; for he will incline to favour thoſe of his own Side, eſpecially in a Party-Cauſe, where too frequently not the *Merits*, but the *Men*, are tryed. And tho' Juſtice may glare ſo ſtrong in his Face, that he cannot veil it with Art, and wreſt it to ſerve a Turn; yet will he find Means to protract the Cauſe, and dwell upon every Argument that comes from the Side he eſpouſes. How ready is he to hear and aſſiſt every Thing from thence? And under what Frowns and Diſcouragements are all thoſe that argue againſt it? New Tryals will be granted for no other Reaſon than to perplex; the *Old baffled* Arguments, interſperſed or larded with ſome *trifling New* Matter, will be eſteemed as *intirely New* on one Side; and yet on the other Side, even Arguments really *New*, will be reprimanded

prinunded as *Impertinencies* and *Repetitions*: Then *Doubts* will ariſe, his *Brethren* muſt be conſulted, and a *farther Day* is given for the Hearing; Which, unleſs the Party falls to Ruin in the *Interim* under the vaſt Expence, perhaps will never come. Theſe are the Misfortunes that have formerly flowed from the Violence of *Party Judges*; and happy it is, that in theſe Days we are Strangers to them!

A *JUDGE* ought to be intirely diſengaged from all thoſe little Paſſions that affect other People; and particularly from *Anger*, or *Peeviſhneſs*, than which nothing can be more odious and unſeemly in his high Character: For it is always viſible, and carries with it the ſame pernicious Tendency, if exercis'd *publickly*, as Bribes do when given *privately*: For does it not *equally* contribute to obſtruct Juſtice, and obſcure Truth? It is the ſame to me whether I loſe my Cauſe, through the one or the other; nor is the Judge leſs excuſable or guiltleſs. *Anger* detracts very much from the Reverence which is due both to the *Perſon* of a Judge, and to the *Laws* which he pronounces. It makes him liable to very great Impoſitions from every Quarter. *The Gentlemen at the Bar* will not fail to make Uſe of it to ſerve the Cauſe of their Clients, and to divert him from the Search of Truth: which often brings him under the great Unhappineſs of miſtaking the *Shadow* for the *Subſtance*; and happy is *He*, whenſoever this happens to be the Caſe, whoſe Counſel beſt knows to ſtrike the *String* of *Diſcord*, for that is the *ſhorteſt Way* to Succeſs.

AS Falſehood often uſurps the Face of *Truth*, and *Truth* lies as frequently conceal'd behind the Maſque

of Falſehood, a Judge ought to be a great Maſter of *Patience* and *Induſtry* to find out the Diſtinction; for they are the *ſure Loadſtones* of *Juſtice*, and the *unerring Clues* that direct to *Truth*. A Judge therefore, that conſiders the Great Duty of his Office, and that he is ſet up *above* the People for *their Good* and *Benefit*, will not deny himſelf the Uſe and Practice of theſe Virtues; which as the Duty of his Office renders *neceſſary*, ſo Cuſtom, in a ſmall Time, will render *eaſy* to him. *Sola Judicis Juſtitia eſt Patientia*, ſays the Greateſt Orator, and the Beſt Judge that ever grac'd the *Roman* State.

THE Great Commiſſioner *Whitlock* in his Speech to Mr. Serjeant *Wilde* on his being ſworn Chief Baron of the *Exchequer*, ſaith, That *Patience is neceſſary for the finding out of Truth; when the Judgment is clouded with Paſſion, the Truth will not be clearly diſcern'd: The* Digeſt *directs a Judge not to give any* Opprobriosa Verba *to any in Judgment; No Impertinencies, Importunities, Clamours, nor Reproaches, muſt move him; He is to learn from the Unbecomingneſs and Intemperances of others Paſſions, the better how to govern his own. He muſt alſo be Patient to allowing ſufficient Time, both for that which is not Material, as for that which is; the Diſtinction is not eaſy by the Diſcretion and Ingenuity of Counſel.* And a little farther ſaith, *That Judge doth ſeldom determine juſtly, that doth not hear* patiently. *And, that Impartiality is likewiſe neceſſary to have the Truth prevail.*

THE Man who pays Regard to theſe Excellent Inſtructions, can never Err on the Bench: And it had been a great Happineſs in the Days of my Lord

Keeper

Keeper *North*, if his Inſtructions to Mr. Serjeant *Saunders*, when he was appointed Chief of the *King's Bench*, had been as little miſtaken: He there ſays, *That a Judge muſt take* Greatneſs *on him; He muſt conſider he repreſents the King's Perſon in his Seat of Juſtice; He muſt therefore be very careful to preſerve the Dignity that belongs to it.* Theſe Directions in themſelves are certainly juſt, and though Mr. Serjeant took them as they were really intended, yet they have been miſunderſtood, or wreſted, by ſome who would have done better to have followed them; and who, in Aping a *falſe Greatneſs* and *Dignity*, have ſhewn themſelves Triumphant in *Pride* and *Obſtinacy*. I do not ſuppoſe, that my Readers will be at a Loſs for a late Inſtance of what I aſſert.——Chief-Juſtice *Jeffreys* is within the Memory of every Body.

*COURAGE* is very neceſſary for a Judge, as well to ſecure him againſt all Importunities and Inſinuations, as to bear him through all unjuſt Reproaches and Cenſures. The Flatteries or Frowns of Great Men in Power may otherwiſe influence him to their Meaſures: For he that fears *Men*, can never execute Juſtice *impartially*. But Care ought to be taken to diſtinguiſh between *Courage* and *Paſſion*: It is not to triumph over the Weakneſs of Men, whom he full well knows to be intirely ſubject to any Arbitrary Determination that his Humour ſhall prompt him to pronounce againſt them, but to keep firm and immoveable in the Cauſe of Truth, that ſhews the *Courage* of a Judge.

I BELIEVE, my Lord-Keeper *North* had an Eye to the *Neceſſity* of *Courage* on the Bench, as well in

in the Paſſage I have quoted, as in recommending, *That the due Reſpect from the Bar to the Bench ſhould be kept carefully up*; and 'tis very juſt and reaſonable it ſhould; otherwiſe, all Order and Decency would be loſt. But at the ſame Time that a Judge ſuffers not the Honour and Dignity of the Court to be invaded by the Gentlemen of the Bar, it imports him to conſider, that *Privilege of Speech* ought to be as well maintain'd on *their Side*; and therefore He ſhould not anticipate or diſcountenance them in the Service of their Clients, by carrying too high an Hand over them.

PERSONS, who are involved in Suits of Law, may, with a great deal of Reaſon, expect the beſt Endeavours of thoſe whom they retain on their Side, becauſe they *pay* for it; And ſhould a Counſel ſuffer himſelf to be intimidated, ſo as tamely to give up an Argument or Point of Law, may it not be ſaid of him, That he has betrayed his Truſt? The Example of *Cicero* ought to be a Rule for every Bariſter; He was a *Bold* as well as *Eloquent* Advocate: Even *Cæſar* himſelf could not deter him from purſuing the Intereſt of his Client *Ligarius*, whoſe Defence he had undertaken, although he knew he was *Cæſar's* Mortal Foe, and by him prejudged to die. His ſteady Reſolution anſwer'd to the Wiſh of the Accuſed; for he was Acquitted; and his Judge, who was an abſolute Emperor, and had Life and Death in his Hands, thought it no Shame to be convinced. A Virtue worthy of a *Roman* Soul! How many *like*, and yet how many *unlike*, this Great *Cæſar*, has our Country produc'd on the Bench of Juſtice?

THE

THE Lord Chancellor *Jeffreys* was too frequently at Variance with the Gentlemen of the Bar, and ſeemed (like all Little Minds) to take a Delight to exerciſe the great Power he was veſted with as well on the Practicers, as on the Suiters of the Court. I have often wonder'd, that the Courtiers of that Reign could have ſo little Regard for the General Good, as to Place a Man who had ſuch a Genius for *Cruelty* at the Head of a *Court of Equity*, where *Moderation*, *Temperance*, and *Prudence* are the neceſſary Virtues But Affairs of State are myſterious; the Intrigues of the Times wanted his Service; They had Drudgery for him to do, which no-body but himſelf would undertake. When he appeared firſt in that Court, he ſeemed to have left all his *Lawleſs Rage* and *Cruelty* behind him; but he had no ſooner *labour'd* himſelf into a *tolerable* Knowledge of the Affairs of it, than he rode Triumphant, and gave a Looſe to his natural Intemperance, and the *Fleet Priſon* abounded with daily Victims of it; for he would commit a Man out of Wantonneſs, and, *Sirrah! you are a very impertinent Fellow!* became a very Habitual Phraſe to him, if he did not like the Countenance of a Man. He ſeemed to delight in Wrangles and Diſputes; for being not of a Nature to *Compoſe*, he took care to inflame them. In ſhort, he ſubverted the Conſtitution of the Court, and introduc'd *New Practices* and *Innovations* of his own, turning a *Court of Equity* into a *Court of Terror* and *Perſecution*. But yet this Man had his Virtues.

IT is very ſurprizing to me, that the Gentlemen of the Bar ſuffer'd themſelves to be ſo over-run by him. Methinks it is an Argument of their *Puſillanimity*;

*mity*; for the Law provided a Remedy for them; as appears in the Case of Sir *Richard Weston* and Sir *Francis Winnington*, who, being Cotemporaries at the Bar, and excellent in their Profession, were always retained as Opposites; but Sir *Richard* having the Misfortune to be very Passionate, the other generally took care to improve it to the Advantage of the Side he was Counsel with; and indeed it was no difficult Matter for him to put Sir *Richard* beyond the Bounds of all Law and Reason, which betray'd him often into indecent Expressions.

ONCE on a Time particularly, when Sir *Francis* would have opposed his own Opinion to a Point of Law that Sir *Richard* had been maintaining, on purpose to irritate him, he threw up his *Breviate* into the Air, and cry'd out, *A Kite, a Kite, by G——d, if what I have urged is not Law*; which causing a loud Laugh in Court, rais'd an irreconcileable Enmity in Sir *Richard* against his Antagonist.

*WESTON* being afterwards made one of the Barons of the *Exchequer*, was resolved to be even with him for it: And as Sir *Francis* was one Day moving before him, he interrupted him, and said, *That he deny'd his Motion; and would not hear him.* Hereupon Sir *Francis* finding himself affronted in the Face of the Court, and in the Presence of several of his Clients, addressed himself to the Chief Baron, saying, *That he came there in the Service of his Client, who had retained him, and had a Right to be heard; That he had always behav'd himself with Decency to the Bench, and in Return had the Honour of its Favour till that Time; That he was not conscious of any*

*Offence*

*Offence he had given the Baron in the Capacity he appeared on the Bench; And, since the Affront he had received was highly injurious to him with regard to his Profession, and tended to lessen him greatly among his Clients, he hoped, that the Court would excuse him, if he demanded of the Baron to give him an Appearance;* and then left the Bar.

BUT the Chief Baron, foreseeing the Ill Consequences that might ensue from *Weston*'s Rashness and Indiscretion, interpos'd, and made up the Matter, upon Mr. Baron *Weston*'s asking Sir *Francis Winnington*'s Pardon: Who appeared, soon after, again in Court; and *as often as the one spoke for the future, the other was ready to hear.*

*I am*, SIR,

*Your Humble Servant*,

R. T.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. XLIX.

*——Nobilitas ſola eſt atque unica Virtus.* JUV.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18. 1723.

I HAVE occaſionally heard it whiſper'd among ſome of my Readers, when I have preſented them with Quotations out of Excellent Authors, that tended to promote the Knowledge of Things which it has been the Aim of this Paper to inculcate as much as poſſible, for the Good of the Publick, That they ſhould have been far better pleas'd with a roduction upon the ſame Subject that had been intirely my own.

THIS is, indeed, a very kind Cenſure; but ſtill I ſhould not deſerve the Approbation I have met with, if I were moved by it ſo far as to be contented with endeavouring myſelf to ſatisfy them in ſome Caſes in a Leſs Degree, when I know I could furniſh them with a More Copious and Pleaſing Entertainment, from a Hand more Fruitful in procuring that kind of

Feaſt

Feaſt of the Mind, which I ſhall have a Deſire to ſet before them, and think the moſt proper for that particular Day.

THE Author of the following Paragraphs is Mr. *Davenant*; an Author who has with Juſtice been applauded, for that he conſtantly endeavoured to make his Studies tend to the Service of the Publick, and his Aim ever was to incite in young Gentlemen, a Deſire of being acquainted with the Buſineſs of the Nation; and this Knowledge, as he very well ſays, lying under abundance of Rubbiſh, his Scope has been to remove this Rubbiſh, and to dreſs up crabbed Matters as agreeably as he could, and to give, as it were, ſhort Maps of Things which others would not take the Pains to Travel through themſelves. In order to this, he devoted his Hours of Leiſure, to Inquiries into the Trade and Revenues of this Kingdom. I have, in order to the ſame End, in Number XI. of this Paper, given the Reader an Extract out of his Excellent *Eſſay upon Trade*; and ſhall now, with the ſame View, proceed to a Quotation out of an *Introduction* of his to a *Diſcourſe upon Grants and Reſumptions, ſhewing how our Anceſtors have proceeded with ſuch Miniſters as have procured to themſelves Grants of the Crown Revenue; and that the forfeited Eſtates ought to be applied towards the Payment of the Publick Debts.* I have taken it from the Second Edition of that Treatiſe, Printed in the Year 1700. and what I have here extracted, is to be found contained between Page 9, and Page 18. And I doubt not, but this Quotation will excite in the Hearts of all Young Men a Deteſtation and a hearty Reſentment againſt any corrupt Miniſters, if any, within the Compaſs of their Lives, ſhould chance

to

to appear and injure the Publick Revenue; and it muſt, *in this Celebrated Month of* November, raiſe a better and nobler Idea of the Great King *William*, than any Panegyrick I could form upon him.

NOT only the Laws of this Kingdom (*ſays this ingenious Gentleman*) but of other Places, and the *Roman* Laws, provide, that the Prince ſhould not be deceived in his *Grants*; for he whoſe Thoughts are imploy'd in the weighty Cares of Empire, is not preſumed to inſpect minuter Things ſo carefully as Private Perſons; the Laws therefore relieve him againſt the *Surprizes* and *Machinations* of Deceitful Men.

FOR his farther Security, the Laws likewiſe inflict ſevere Puniſhment upon thoſe who defraud him in his Stores, Treaſure or Revenues, counting ſuch Publick Robbers more Criminal than Petty and Common Thieves.

BUT the Laws ſeem chiefly levell'd againſt thoſe in whom he repoſes the greateſt Truſt: Therefore the Legiſlative Power of all Countries has rigorouſly animadverted upon ſuch Miniſters and Officers, through whoſe Fraud, Negligence, or Crime, his Affairs have ſuffered any Damage; of which may be given Variety of Precedents.

AND when he has been exhauſted by the too great Munificence of his own Temper, and thro' the falſe Repreſentations and ſubtle Contrivances of thoſe about him, and when thereby the Publick has become weak and ruin'd, and unable to protect itſelf, he has been

been assisted by the Laws; and such as have been vigilant for his Safety, jealous of his Honour, and careful for the Common Good, have thought it their Duty to look into his Gifts, and to resume his Grants; of which diverse Instances and Examples might be given.

BUT notwithstanding the Wisdom of the Laws, and of Law-Makers, it has been always a Point of the highest Difficulty to keep within its proper Veins this *Life-Blood* of the Body Politick; so prone have Corrupt Ministers ever been to urge Princes to needless and destructive Bounty, especially when they themselves are to be the Largest Sharers in it.

KINGS are the *Fathers of their Country*; but, unless they keep their *Estates*, they are such *Fathers* as the *Sons maintain*; which is against the Order of Nature, who makes all these Cares *descend*, and places *Fostering*, *Nourishment*, and *Protection* in the *Parent*: But the Prince is our *Common Father*, and therefore all that tends to his *Safety*, *Ease*, and *State*, is *due* to him: However, the less he is necessitated to *depend* upon his *Children*; the more he is respected.

AND Kings are not to account themselves Fathers of a *Party* only, or of none but those who rush into the Presence, and whisper to them; they are Fathers of the *whole Body* of the People; they are not to reckon themselves Fathers of their *Favourites* only, as *Henry* the Third of *France* did; who said, *He would grow a good Husband, when he had marry'd his Children the Dukes of* Joyeuse *and* Espernon. Their Paternal Affection is to reach to *all their Subjects*: And as

in a *private Family*, *Partiality* to *one Brother* begets Hatred and Diviſions, ſo in a *Nation* it produces Diſcontent and Heart-burnings to ſee *three* or *four*, without any *ſuperior* Merit, lifted high over all the reſt, inriched with the *Univerſal Spoils* of a Country, and wallowing in *Luxury* and *Wealth*, while the *whole People* groans under *heavy Burthens*.

NOT that Mankind repine that the Prince ſhould have Friends with whom he may communicate his Thoughts, and unbend his Cares, nor to ſee ſuch Friends the better for his Favours: 'Tis warranted by Examples in the beſt Reigns. *Maecenas* and *Aggrippa*, cheriſhed, inriched, and promoted by *Auguſtus*, were yet as dear to the reſt of *Rome* as they were to that wiſe Emperor. But they behold with Indignation, Men exalted, who return not to the Prince *reciprocal Kindneſs*; who *abuſe* his *Favours*; who *fail* his *Words*; who, by *falſe Repreſentations*, *traduce* all others, that they may engroſs him to themſelves; who arrogate to *themſelves* all the *Good*, and lay upon *him* the *Blame* of *unfortunate Counſels*; who have no Regard to *his Honour*, when *their own Safety* is in Queſtion; whoſe Advice tends to their own *private Profit*, without Conſideration of their *Maſter's*, or the *Publick Welfare*; who draw all *Lines* to *their own corrupted Centre*, whoſe *Ambition* is not gratified with any Honours, and whoſe *Avarice* is not ſatiated with *Multiplicity* of *Employments*, nor with *repeated Gifts* and *Grants* out of a *ſtript Revenue*, and an *exhauſted Exchequer*. 'Tis *ſuch* a Sort of *Favourites* and *Miniſters* that the People hate, and exclaim againſt, and whoſe *Heads* they commonly reach at laſt.

WITH-

WITHOUT any Regard, whether or no it be between *Sun and Sun*, if the Prince is *robb'd*, the Country *pays* it; and therefore, when the *Hue and Cry duly* purſues the Robbers, Governments are not to wonder: 'Tis true, they now and then eſcape, eſpecially when in their Depredations upon the Publick there are a *great many* concern'd, and when they have made ſo *large* a Booty, that they become ſafe by the *Multitude* of *thoſe* who have been *Partakers* in it (for it has been the conſtant Courſe of Miniſters who would rob a Nation with Impunity, to give to *all* that ask, and to refuſe *no Man* who has either *Intereſt* or *Power*; that, fortify'd by *a ſtrong Confederacy*, they may *bear down* all Sort of Inquiſition, and *out-brave* the Laws.) But very often the *Wants* of the People, crying aloud, have awaken'd *good Patriots*, and *bold Spirits*, whom neither the *Power*, nor the *Number* of the *Offenders*, could affright; and theſe *Lovers* of our *Conſtitution*, in many *former Reigns*, have courageouſly attack'd, and brought to Condemnation, Perſons in the *higheſt Places* of Authority, who, in *Breach* of their *Truſt*, had preſum'd to procure to themſelves Grants of the King's Lands or Treaſure, and who had converted to *their own Uſe*, what was given and intended for the *Maintenance* and *Preſervation* of the *State*.

PRINCES, when they come to know the *true State* of Things, are not unwilling to prevent their own Ruin; Which is manifeſt from this; That the moſt *Wiſe*, *Valiant*, and moſt *Heroick* of our Kings, have given Way to Inquiries of *this Nature*, and not thought it *inconſiſtent* with their *Royal Dignity* and *Honour*, to reſume even *their own* Grants, when they

have been repreſented by the *whole Body* of their People as hurtful to the Common-Wealth.

WE have now upon the Throne a KING *willing* and *able* to correct the Abuſes of the Age; *Willing*, from the *Wiſdom* of his *Mind*, and the *Goodneſs* of his *Temper*; *Able*, from that *Power* and *ſtrong Intereſt* which his *Courage* and his other *numberleſs Virtues* have procured Him in the *Hearts* and *Affections* of his People. Men readily obey and follow *Him* whom they *reverence*; for which Reaſon ſome Philoſophers have placed the *Original of Power* in *Admiration*, either of *ſurpaſſing Form*, *great Valour*, or *Superior Underſtanding*; *Heroick Kings*, whoſe *high Perfections* have made 'em *awful* to their Subjects, can *ſtruggle with*, and *ſubdue* the *Corruption* of the *Times*; as *Hercules* can cleanſe the *Augean Stable* of the *Filth* which had not been been ſwept away in *Thirty Years*. Princes whom their *Effeminacy*, *Weakneſs*, or *Levity* have render'd *contemptible*, may fear *Idols* of *their own* making, and ſtand in Awe of Men become terrible only by Greatneſs derived *from them*. *They* may be afraid to pull down *Miniſters*, and *Favourites* grown formidable by the *united Councils* of their *Faction*, by the *Number* of their *Followers*, and *Strength* of their *Adherents*, and ſo let *Male-adminiſtration* proceed on, as thinking it *too big* to be amended; but *Magnanimous Kings*, who have the *People* of *their Side*, need entertain no ſuch Thoughts and Apprehenſions: they know that theſe *Top-heavy Buildings*, rear'd up to an *invidious Height*, and which have no *ſolid Foundation* in *Merit*, are in a Moment, blown down by the *Breath* of *Kings*. *Good Perſons* indeed, grown *great* and *popular* from the Fame of their *Real*

*Worth*

*Worth* and *Virtues*, may perhaps be dreadful to *bad Rulers*; but *Bad Men*, let 'em have never ſo much *ſeeming Greatneſs*, and *Power*, are very rarely dangerous to *good Princes*.

THE *Cabals* of a *Party*, the *Intrigues* of a *Court*, nor the Difficulties *ſome* may pretend to bring upon his Affairs, never terrify a *Wiſe* and *Stout King*, bent to *reform* the *State*, who has the *Love* of his *People*, and whoſe *Intereſt* is *one and the ſame* with *Theirs*. We have never yet heard of a *Tumult* raiſed to *reſcue* a Miniſter whom his Maſter deſired to bring to a *fair Accompt*; on the contrary to ſee *Upſtarts*, and *worthleſs Men*, inrich'd with *Spoils of a Country*, has been the Occaſion of many *popular* Seditions, which *wiſe Kings* have appeaſed by a *juſt* and *timely Sacrifice*.

THE

# TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. L.

*Quis tulerit Gracchos de seditione quærentes?* JUV.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22. 1723.

THE Paragraphs taken from Mr. *Davenant* in our last, were so pleasing to several of our Readers, that we have set apart for this Day's Entertainment all the rest that we think necessary on this Head.

BY the former Part of the Discourse, young Gentlemen are taught how strongly our Laws are formed against all Corrupt Ministers that injure the Publick Revenues: In this Concluding Part, they will be instructed what Artificial Arguments, what vile Insinuations, and what cunning, but unprevailing Stratagems, such wicked Great Men have heretofore used to baffle, silence, discourage, and even ruin those sincere, brave and gallant Patriots, those genuine and Publick-Spirited Sons of Honour, in fine, those

TRUE

TRUE BRITONS, that have from Time to Time, ſtood nobly up in their Country's Cauſe, and ventur'd, notwithſtanding the Power and the Threats of ſuch Evil Miniſters, to proſecute them for their intolerable Depeculations.

A KING who would *reform* the State for the *general Eaſe* and *Benefit* of his People, muſt expect to meet with ſome *Difficulties*, eſpecially if a *great many* of *thoſe about him* are *Partakers* in the *Abuſes* he will correct: All ſort of *Rubs* will be laid in the Way, and the Fears of ſuch as may be call'd to an Accompt, will make 'em ſet all kind of Engines at Work.

FIRST they will put a *high Value* upon *their own* Deſerts, and arrogate to *themſelves*, the *Single Merit* of the *Many Millions* which the *Whole Nation* has both freely Paid and Granted: They will produce Precedents of *other Ages*, and ſhew *long Liſts* and *Grants* obtain'd under *former Reigns*; but, at the ſame Time, they will take Care not to mention how ſuch Proceedings have been *always reſented*, and *often puniſhed* in this Kingdom.

THEY will endeavour to blaſt the Reputation of ſuch as would inquire into their Actions; and though perhaps there are no other poſſible Ways and Means left to ſupply the State, but by making them *diſgorge*, and but by bringing them to a *Reſtitution*, yet they will pretend, that all Motions leading thereunto, and all Inquiries of this Nature, are nothing but the Effects of *Diſcontent*, and the *Reſult* of *Faction*.

AND because, in all their Doings and Counsels, they have never had any View but their own *Private Profit*, they will do their best to persuade the World, That *no Man* acts upon *Principle*; That *all* is sway'd by *particular Malice*; and, That there is not left in the Kingdom, any *Party of Men* which consult the *Publick Good*.

THEY who are conscious of their *Guilt*, and apprehensive that the *Justice* of the *Nation* should take Notice of their *Theft* and *Rapine*, will try to give all Things a *false Turn*, and to fill every Place with *false Suggestions*: Sometimes they will accuse *Innocent Persons*, that so, by putting the People upon a *wrong Scent*, they may avoid the *Pursuers*, and escape *unpunished*: At other Seasons they will boast of the *Number* of their Friends and *Adherents*, thinking to awe both the *Court* and *Country* with an Opinion that their Party is *too Strong* and *too Powerful* to be *resisted*.

AND, that the Knowledge of their Crimes may never reach the Prince's Ear, they will endeavour to *ingross him to themselves*, by misrepresenting *all others* that are not of *their Cabal*, either as *disaffected* to his *Person*, or as *Enemies* to *Kingly Government*. Thus they did heretofore; and tho' there were truly but *Two Parties* in *England*, consisting of those who would promote *Male-Administration*, because they got by it, and of those who desired Things might be well govern'd, that they, and such as they represented, might be eas'd; which Two Sides were heretofore distinguish'd by the Names of *Court* and *Country Party*;

*Party*; to which likewise they would have put an *End* whenever they had pleased to have miniſter'd *leſs Occaſion* of *Complaint*; yet they will revive *old Names* of *Diſtinction*, giving *odious Appellations* to the beſt *Patriots*, pretending there are *dangerous Factions* form'd, ſo to frighten the World with *Phantoms* of *their own* Creation. Thoſe *falſe Turns* they will give, and theſe *wrong Suggeſtions* they will make, in order to drive all *Power* into what they call *their own Party*, as if any Prince could be ſafe that ſhould rely upon ſo *Narrow* and *Rotten a Bottom*.

AND when their Actions ſhall hereafter come to be examin'd in that Place to which our Conſtitution has intruſted the *Inquiry* and the *Puniſhment* of ſuch *Offences*, 'tis probable that up will riſe ſome Arrogant Man, more Zealous for *Himſelf* than for his *Maſter*, and cry, *All that we have given among one another, we have deſerved by our Services and Labours in the State; what Projects have we not ſet afoot? and what Sums have we not procur'd? Did not the Miniſters in* King Charles's *Reign give away the Crown Lands? Recall thoſe Grants, and we are ready to ſurrender ours; Reſume all or none: 'Tis next to Demonſtration that theſe Clamours ariſe from a Diſcontented Party, who would diſturb the Government; They who look into our Proceedings act out of Malice, becauſe of the great Things we have done againſt* France; *What if ſuch a one got a Hundred thouſand Pounds at once, did he not ſave the Nation? If we are us'd thus, what Encouragement will there be to ſerve Princes? For my Part, I will never meddle more in your Buſineſs: All this tends to leſſen the Monarchy, invade the Prerogative, and to ſet up a Doge of* Venice. *Ay, Sir,* (perhaps there may be

be added) *and the Majority are of this Opinion.* By this *high Bearing*, and theſe *falſe Suggeſtions*, heretofore, *well-meaning Perſons* have been frightned from reaching at *great Offenders*, and even the *beſt Patriots*, by ſeeing with what *Warmth* and *Zeal* the *ſmalleſt Corruptions* are defended, have been *wearied* into Silence: And this has made ſome of our Kings believe, that either the *Offenders* are grown *above* the Laws, or that the People *conſented* to thoſe Things which they did not think fit to puniſh: But *wiſe Princes* ſee through all this; they know that an *Honeſt* and *Faithful Miniſter* will be contented with *moderate Favours*; That very often nothing but the *ill Contrivance* of the *Aid* belongs to thoſe he employs, and that the *Gifts* come from the *free Affections* of the *Subject*; That *Patterns* to rule by, are to be ſought for out of *Good*, not *Looſe Reigns*; That *Inſpections* which look *too far backward*, produce *nothing*; That a *Few* may complain *without Reaſon*, but that there is *Occaſion* for *Redreſs* when the *Cry* is *univerſal*; That no *Military Action*, or *other Merit*, can give a Man a juſt Title to *rob the Publick*; That even *good Miniſters* are thought no more on when they are *out*, and that certainly *bad Ones* may retire without being *miſs'd*; That *Abſolute Power* is not a Plant that will grow in *this Soil*, and that *Stateſmen* who have attempted to cultivate it here, have pull'd on *their own*, and *their Maſter's* Ruin. A *wiſe Prince*, likewiſe, does not care to ſee *corrupt Officers* ſo *earneſt* to have *one another*, for 'tis always at *His Coſt*; Nor does He like that his Miniſters, when *attack'd*, ſhould be able to protect themſelves in their *Crimes* by the *Power* of a *Faction*; for they who are ſtrong enough to bear down the *Law*, may preſume, in Time, to think they ſubſiſt

ſtſt by their *proper Strength*, and that they ſtand upon *their own Legs*, and ſo come at laſt to ſlight *His Authority*.

BAD MEN have ever given a *Falſe Colour* to their Proceedings, and cover'd their *Ambition*, *Corruption*, and *Rapine*, with the *Pretence of their Maſter's Service*; They make him believe *their Greatneſs* advances *him*, whereas it truly tends to his *Diminution*, and he is often *weak* for want of that *Wealth* and *Power* which they *ſhare* among *one another*. Their *Riches* have frequently brought *Envy* upon the *Prince*; but we can hardly meet with an Inſtance of any who in *his Diſtreſs* has been aſſiſted from the *Purſes* of his *Miniſters*; for they are commonly the *firſt* that fly from his *Misfortunes*: And though they pretend that his *Power* is rever'd in *them*, and that *they* make him *ſtrong* by the *Benefits* he lets *them* beſtow, yet a *wiſe King* ſees through all this *Artifice*, and knows, That he who would reap any Advantage from his Favours in the Opinions of Men, muſt make 'em ſenſible, that they owe them *ſingly* to *his Goodneſs*, and not to the *Interceſſion* of *thoſe about him*.

BUT of all the *Falſe Suggeſtions* made by thoſe who have arriv'd at a *great Power* by *wicked Arts*, none have prov'd ſo dangerous as theſe, which, in former Reigns, have been frequently inſinuated in the Cabinet. *Sir, we are your only Friends; ſtick by us, and we will ſtick by you. Our Meaſures are diſpleaſing to the People, ſo were thoſe of former Miniſters. A few well united, and in one Bottom, have guided this Nation, and with hard Reins, as Witneſs the Times of* Cromwel. *Mind not the Qualifications of any Man*

*for*

*for this or that Office in the State: Is he with us? If he be hearty, it ought to cover all other Defects: Turn out and discountenance such as are not intirely with us in all our Councils: Make your Court of a Piece: Let none presume to be directed by his own Conscience or Reason; Ought they to be in your Service who dare think your Ministers can be in the Wrong? Why do such and such Great Men refuse such and such Employments? Is it not plainly out of Disaffection to the present Government? or, That they like Popularity better than any Favours you can bestow upon them? Many are infected with Republican Principles, and several have an Eye towards the other Side of the Water. Have not other Hands been tried and found restly? but we stick at nothing: The other Party has been made use of, but 'twas thought fit to lay them aside: 'Tis indeed, pretended, that with them is the Integrity, the good Opinion of the Nation, the Substance, Learning, Parts, Knowledge, and Experience in Affairs; however, we are more diligent, and better united. But does not there lie a kind of Necessity upon you to make use of us, and us only? Does the other Side make any Offers to come in? Loaded, as they say we are, with the Publick Hatred, and though we may be thought unfit to carry on your Business, yet 'tis better joining with us than to stand alone. Is not the other Side cold and reserv'd? and do not the best Men among them refuse to meddle in the Administration?* With such like *False Whisperers*, in former Reigns, the Ears of Princes have been poison'd, and by these *pretended Friends* they were induc'd to *purge*, as they call it, 'till the *Body Politick* was quite *exhausted* of all its *good Spirits*: Such a one, who had done a *Thousand Faithful Services*, must *be laid aside*, because his *just Fears* would

would not permit him to give into the *last bad Measures*. *This Man* was *against* me; We *suspect* such another; Some are *too cautious*; Some *too discerning*; Others *left us* in *such an important Vote*. And they grow to that Presumption, by degrees, as to advise, that a *whole Party* should be *frown'd upon*, depress'd, and utterly *trodden down*; And thus they Lop and Lop, on this and that Hand, cutting away the *Tall*, *Sound*, and *Substantial Timber* that us'd to shelter them from the *Winds*, 'till in the End, they leave the *Government* a *Trunk naked*, *defenceless*, and *obnoxious* to *every Storm*; But when they proceed so far as to get the Prince to declare openly *for one*, and *against the other Side*, they lay the *Ax* to its *very Root*.

SOME Kings have thought it Politick to *nourish Factions* in their *Court*; but then they preserv'd themselves *Neuter*, and so made *both Sides* subservient to *their Designs*; and even *this* has been rather esteem'd *Subtlety* than *Wisdom*: But no Prince, that could help it, did ever let *Faction* grow *National*; However, if 'twas out of his Power to prevent *this* Mischief, 'twas never thought Prudent in him to list *himself* on *either Side*; And *Henry* III. of *France* is a memorable Instance, how fatal 'tis for the *Sovereign* to become the *Head* of *any Party*.

*PARTIALITY* is the *little Weakness* of *Private Men*, and unbecoming the *Greatness* of a *Prince*, whose *Favour* should shine upon the *whole Body* of his *People*, as the Sun sheds his *benign Influence* upon the *universal Face of Nature*, not warming *one Part* of the *Globe only*: If it can be compass'd, he should quite *root out* Faction; but if the *Disease* be *too inveterate*

*veterate* to be *cur'd*, without doubt 'tis a Point of the *higheſt Wiſdom* for him to bear himſelf *evenly between both*, ſo that *neither Side* may deſpair of *Favour*; or, at leaſt, ſo carry it, that *both Sides* may remain in *full Aſſurance* to find *equal Juſtice*. Nor is it impoſſible ſo contrive Matters ſo as to beget an *Emulation* in *Parties* which may produce *good Effects*; that is, by *wiſe Governing* it may be ſo ordered, that *both Sides* ſhall be at *Strife*, not which ſhall *flatter* moſt, but which ſhall do the *Prince* and the *Publick* the moſt *Honeſt*, and the moſt *Faithful Service*; And this is done when (without any Regard under *what Banners*, in a divided Country, Men had *liſted* themſelves) thoſe Perſons are pitch'd upon for the *Miniſterial Part* of *Government*, who are moſt remarkable for their *Capacity*, *Experience*, *Integrity*, and *Knowledge* in *Affairs*; And a Prince who makes ſuch a *Choice* of *Miniſters*, will ſoon beget a *Virtuous Emulation* between the *Factions*, and ſet *both Sides* upon ſtriving *which* ſhall ſerve *moſt cheaply*; with the *feweſt Selfiſh* Deſigns, and which ſhall handle *his*, and the *Nation's Money*, with the *cleaneſt Hands*: But when by the Favour of thoſe that Rule, one Side is become much *ſuperior* to the other, this *Virtuous Emulation* ceaſes, and *both Sides* contend only to put *one another* in the *Wrong*, *each Side* obſtructing what *the other* moves, let it be never ſo much for the *Publick Good*: But when the *Miſchief* is grown to *ſuch a Height*, that being of a *Party*, is to be the *Principal* if not the *Only Recommendation*, then the *Hotteſt Men*, who are generally the *Worſt* and *Corrupteſt Members* of it, are ſure to have the moſt Power; And when the *Adminiſtration* is in *their* Hands, they proceed *without Comptrol*; for the Side which ſhould *oppoſe them* is

*diſ-*

*discountenanced, frown'd upon, out of Credit*, and *discourag'd* from *inquiring*, because their *Inquiries* are *slacken'd* and *misrepresented*; And when all this happens, they who have the *Power*, rob the *Prince*, *waste* his *Treasure*, and run him into *immense Debts*: Thus Kings heretofore, who shew'd themselves *partial* to a *Party*, had the Service only of the *worst Part* of their *People*, and their Reigns were commonly *anxious* and *unquiet*, because, when engag'd with a Side, they were often forc'd, against the *Nature* of their *Office*, to protect the *Bad* against the *Good*, and even to defend the *Male-Administration* by which *they* suffer'd. ——

THE Letter from our kind Correspondent *A. Z.* is come to Hand, and shall be inserted the first Opportunity.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LI.

*—— Hic Niger eſt, hunc tu, Romane, caveto.* HOR.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25. 1723.

THERE are many pernicious Creatures, that ſeem, as it were, to be born to be *profeſs'd Enemies* to the *Repoſe of all the World*: Of all theſe *obnoxious Animals*, who make to themſelves an execrable Livelihood by diſturbing the *Peace* and *Quiet* of *Humane Society*, there is not any ſo fatally miſchievous, and ſo frightfully dangerous, as that Wretch, who makes Uſe of all the proper Artifices which intitle him to the Name of a COMMON INFORMER.

IF we conſider him with regard to *himſelf*, we ſhall be apt to deplore and bewail the weak and lamentable Condition of Man's Nature, that it ſhould ever be capable of falling ſo deſpicably low, that it ſhould ever be unhappily liable to ſuch monſtrous Corruptions, as are the daily Practices and hourly Purſuits

Purſuits of this ſort of Miſcreant, of this Two-legg'd Beaſt of Prey. An INFORMER is the very worſt Child of Perdition; He is an Abſtract of Miſchief in its moſt frightful Shape; the moſt hideous Piece of Deformity; the moſt ugly Prodigy that Nature, in her utmoſt State of Depravity, can poſſibly produce.

THE main Delight and Pleaſure which he takes, conſiſts in diſtributing about him the Seeds of Striſe, Diſcord, and Confuſion; in ſcattering as much Pain and Torment, as he poſſibly can among all with whom he converſes. The poor *Good Man*, that is frail in his Notions of Things, that is weak of Underſtanding, but truly honeſt in the Diſpoſition of his Heart; that is open, ſincere, and righteous in his Deſires, but perhaps a little imprudent in his Conduct: Such an innocent Man, who has all the Right in the World to the Inſtruction and Aſſiſtance of every faithful Companion in Life that is bleſs'd with ſuperior Talents, is the very Perſon, whom the faithleſs and perfidious Informer takes an inhumane Satisfaction to beſet and betray. And he is, if conſidered in this Light, as dangerous with regard to others, as he is deformed with regard to himſelf.

SUCH a Man, ſurely, can never be ſaid to *enjoy* Life himſelf, let him make what Advantages he will, who is thus eternally breaking the Reſt, and diſturbing the Enjoyments of his Fellow-Creatures. He muſt, at ſome deliberate Hours, let him be as harden'd as he will, be pain'd with the ſevereſt Remorſe, that he is the Terrifier and the Tormentor of Honeſt and Virtuous Men, and the Abomination of that

GREAT BEING, who ſuperintends over all human Affairs, and ſees the Secrets of all Hearts. In this View, he can look upon himſelf as no better than an incarnate *Daemon*, that gratifies the moſt helliſh and cruel Appetites, in leading well-meaning Men into Temptation, and in beholding them ſuffer for the very Crimes of which he knows himſelf to have been the Main Spring, the Maſter-Engine, and the Original Author.

IF an Honeſt Man falls into the Company of any other wicked Set of Men upon Earth but *theſe*, he has nothing to fear, nothing to apprehend, but from the Contagion of their Vices, and may make his own Virtue his Safeguard: But if he unluckily lights into the fatal Converſation of an artificial and guileful *Informer*, his very *Virtues* themſelves, will be made the Meaſures of his own Undoing. —— Is there, for Example, a Man who is a warm and ſincere Defender of *Juſtice*, but happens to be of a Temper a little too apt to be inflamed on a ſudden, againſt any Perſon who is made appear to have acted in direct Oppoſition to that Virtue? Why then, ſuch a Man is known by an *Informer*, as ſoon as he has eyed him and marked his Diſpoſition, to be a proper Object of his cruel Deſigns, and he doubts not to make him his certain Prey. The ſmiling Ruffian will pick him up, inſinuate himſelf into the Boſom of this Unhappy Innocent, and hug him 'till he devours him. The *Informer*, in ſuch Company, is always loudeſt in his Zeal of ſpeaking in Praiſe of that Virtue and Worth, which he is that ſame Moment longing and conſpiring to betray. He would make his innocent Companion believe, by his colourable Diſcourſes, that he has

has ſettled within his own Conſcience all the Rules and Maxims that are ſufficient to uphold a whole Court of Juſtice, though his Deſign is to violate, by that Means, every Degree of Common Honeſty. The artful Villain wins, by theſe frequent, theſe double-tongu'd and plauſible Harangues, the Heart of the ſimple and upright Plain-dealer; He then, from Time to Time, drops prejudicial Hints and falſe Accounts of ſome Great Men, which wound their Character by Degrees; 'till at laſt, the Honeſt Man, by the ſeveral Impreſſions which he credulouſly ſwallows from ſo ſeeming a Saint, believes ſuch great Perſonages to be the very Oppoſites of what they really are, and ſimply utters ſome warm and unguarded Expreſſions, with an Honeſt Indignation, againſt Perſons, whom he has ſuch ſeeming good Evidence to induce him to believe Highly Criminal. When ſuch a vile Double-Dealer has brought an honeſt imprudent Man to theſe Lengths, away he goes to Perſons in Power, informs them of the baſe Uſage their Characters ſuffer: gets a ſimple Man puniſhed for a Crime of which himſelf was the real but hidden Source, and perhaps obtains a Reward for his Diſcovery, from thoſe Great Perſons themſelves, whom he induſtriouſly cauſed to be thus publickly traduced.

IN this View, *Informers* are as deteſtable to Great and Wiſe Men, as they are fatal to Little Ones that are Simple and Honeſt.

METHINKS, therefore, a Man who is *Truly Great*, will never be induced to give Ear to ſuch execrable Wretches as theſe; much leſs imploy them.

Any Perſon in Authority muſt know, that an *Informer* cannot offer himſelf under that Title, without being a *Deſigning Man*; And who will truſt a *Deſigning Man* in Affairs where, if he does not find any Work ſtirring, and ready cut out, as I may ſay, to his Hands, he can, if he pleaſes, (and he certainly will if he can, becauſe it is his Intereſt) create himſelf Buſineſs, though it is at the Expence of that Perſon's Fame, from whom he hopes a Reward? Would it not be more becoming the Wiſdom of a Great Man, when ſuch a Flatterer offer'd himſelf in the Quality of an *Informer*, though he did it with all the artful Addreſs and Eloquence, and all the ſeeming Sincerity, that could be, to imagine, that all the true Sentiments which he gilded over with the flattering Ornaments of Speech, were no more than if, in plain Terms, he ſhould have delivered himſelf thus: *Sir, or, My Lord, If you will feed me with Money, I will make it my Care and Study to procure you to be heartily abuſed and affronted. I will make even many* Honeſt *Men, by ſome Arts I have, hate you, that would otherwiſe naturally love you; I will find out ſuch Ways and Means, that, rather than fail, I will draw in ſome good unwary People in ſpite of their own Teeth, to think Ill of you, ſpeak Ill of you, and offend you, that you may have the Pleaſure of puniſhing thoſe Perſons, who would otherwiſe, perhaps, have extoll'd your Conduct, and whom you, in your Turn, might perhaps have had Cauſe to approve for their Honeſty, Simplicity and Juſtice.*

AS *falſe Informers*, therefore, are prejudicial to all Ranks of Men, methinks it is a great Pity there ſhould not be ſome ſevere Laws enacted againſt them.

The

The Generation of People called *Blacks*, that has of late riſen up among us, conſiſts of Perſons, whoſe Plunders and Murders cry aloud for ſevere Chaſtiſement: But *baſe* and *falſe Informers* are, if poſſible, the proper Objects of greater Vengeance than the former; They deſerve to be included under the Name of THE BLACKS, and to have the ſame Puniſhments aſſigned them. They are downright Man-hunters: And Perſons that have had the greateſt Authority to ſuppreſs them, and neglected doing it, have, in former Times, been hunted to Death by them, and have had the Fate of *Acteon*, who fell a Prey to his own Hounds. There are no Men of Honour but what had rather lay down their Lives, than have their good Name murder'd; and if a *baſe Informer* does not reach the *Perſon* of a Man, he is ſure, in a great meaſure, to deſtroy and kill the *Reputation* of any one when he heartily undertakes it.

SINCE, therefore, it is impoſſible to enumerate all the Evils, to which theſe Miſcreants may expoſe the *Little*, the *Great*, the *Virtuous* and *Innocent*, it would be happy, if, whenſoever any of them ſhould chance to be found, and diſcover'd crowding in among TRUE BRITONS, with an Intention to do Miſchief, there ſhould be a wholſome Law made, that *Tranſportation*, at leaſt, ſhould be their Puniſhment.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LII.

*Miraris cum tu argento post omnia ponas;*
*Si nemo præstet, quem non mereatris, amorem.* HOR.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29. 1723.

WHENEVER a wicked Minister finds he has brought upon himself the *Odium* of his Fellow-Subjects, in order to palliate his Offences and excuse his Conduct, he generally imputes to the *Variableness* and *Inconstancy* of the *People* the Opposition and Ill-will he meets with in the Prosecution of his unjust Designs. So great is the Presumption and Partiality of such a Man to his *Single Self*, as to arraign and condemn the *Judgment* and *Senses* of *Millions* of People, who are Sufferers by his Administration, rather than to take to himself the deserved Blame of his own wicked Actions.

MANKIND, 'tis true, is fond of *Novelty*, and the *rising* Statesman is generally more approv'd and applauded, than when he has rivetted himself in the Affections of his Master, and grown into the Envied Bulk of a *Favourite*. But this Change of Sentiment and

and Behaviour in the People with Regard to such a Minister, is not so much the Effect of *Levity* in the *one*, as of *Evil Conduct* in the *other*. The *New Minister* usually paves his Way to Power by the Disgrace of his *Predecessor*; and as Male-Administration is generally imputed to the *fallen Favourite*, and that the Publick has laboured under some Hardships and Oppressions, the natural Consequences of *his* Mismanagements, 'tis no Wonder that the People pursue the *One* with *Obloquy* and *Reproach*, and confirm, with *unanimous Acclamations*, the Prince's Choice of the *Other*, in Hopes to be freed, by his Means, from the Difficulties to which they were subjected by the Conduct of the *former*.

BUT if a little Time convinces the World, That the *New rais'd* Grandee, far from rectifying the Abuses introduced by his Predecessor, treads in the same Steps, and even lays *greater* and *heavier* Burthens on the People, than those under which they groan'd before, what must be the natural Consequences of such Oppressions, but Murmurs and Uneasiness? Or, How can it be expected but that the Indignation and Discontents of the Publick, thus *frustrated* in their *just Expectations*, should rise to a Height proportionable to their Disappointment? and that they should load with Execrations the same Man whom (while they hoped better Things from him) they followed with Acclamations? This Behaviour of the People is certainly very *Just* and *Equal*. They are still *consistent* with *themselves*; and 'tis the *Minister*, and not *they*, that ought to be charged as well with *Inconstancy* as *Degeneracy* and *Ingratitude*. And he stands equally condemned by the Rules of *True Policy*

*licy* and *Honeſty*, for her erecting on ſuch *favourable Prepoſſeſſions*, when it was ſo much in his Power, an abſolute Empire, both for his Maſter and himſelf, in the Affections of his Fellow Subjects. And this, no doubt, would be the ſureſt Means to recommend him ſtill more to the Eſteem of his Sovereign, and thereby eſtabliſh his Adminiſtration on the *beſt* and moſt *permanent Baſis*, the *reciprocal* Intereſt both of *Prince* and *People*, which a good Miniſter will always eſteem to be inſeparable.

OF all the Countries in *Europe*, *England* and *Naples* are cenſur'd moſt in Authors for Levity and Diſaffection to Governors. The People of theſe Two Kingdoms are ſaid to be prone to Change, and never long pleaſed with their Rulers; But I cannot give into the Charge, nor think there is any Foundation in Juſtice for this *National* Cenſure. Contrary Proofs may be given for this Kingdom, to go no farther back, in its Affection to King *Charles* II. notwithſtanding the Luxuries of his Court, and many Inſtances of Male-Adminiſtration and Oppreſſion in his Reign.

AS to *Naples*, the Diſtance they are at from their Prince, and the Adminiſtration of Viceroys (who generally ſtudy to raiſe their Fortunes at the Publick Expence, and being Governors but for an uncertain Time, haſten to accumulate Riches) are principal Cauſes of the Miſery and Diſcontents of that Nation. Had it not been for Exorbitant *Gabels*, *Maſſanello* would have found no Followers. Nor would the *Neapolitans* have riſen as one Man, to throw off the *Spaniſh* Yoke, and declare for the preſent Emperor, had

had not the Duke *d' Eſcalona*, Viceroy for *Philip V.* been a weak Man, and made a Property of the People. And if His Imperial Majeſty would condeſcend to appoint an Arch-Dutcheſs his Siſter, to reſide among that People, (as was promiſed in his Name to the *Neapolitans* when they ſubmitted to his Obedience) inſtead of Viceroys, the beſt of whom are but Sponges on the Publick, the Imperial Court, in all Probability, need never more be ſubject to the ſhocking Apprehenſions which alarm their Cabinet, from the Diſaffection of that People, every Time a *Spaniſh* Squadron appears in the *Mediterranean*.

THERE are very few Inſtances, if any, of Inſurrections or Murmurs in any Nation under the Sun, where the People have not been oppreſſed, and where the general Intereſts of the Publick have been purſued. What Hardſhips, what Taxes, what Deſtruction and Havock of the Flower of their Youth, have not *Ruſſia*, *France* and *Sweden* undergone, to ſupport the tow'ring Projects and enterprizing Views of the preſent *Czar*, and the late *French* and *Swediſh* Monarchs? And yet how patiently! how faithfully! while they have had the Pleaſure of being commanded by Active and Martial Princes, who would ſuffer none to pillage them but themſelves, tho' but for the Acquiſition of a *Falſe* and *Fantaſtick Glory*; whilſt the Breaſt of every Private Man has glow'd with a Spark of the ſame Fire, and every little Creature has taken to himſelf *his* Share of Pride, flattering himſelf to partake in the Glory of his Prince, and the extended Limits of his Native Country; to which, indeed, he might lay ſome Sort of Claim, becauſe they were purchaſed at the Expence of his Blood,

Blood, and the Loſs of Liberty and all the valuable Comforts of Life. And to ſo great a Degree has this *falſe Glory* reign'd in every Little *Gallic* Boſom, that nothing has been more common, than to hear the very *Refugees* who are diſperſed Abroad in Foreign Countries, and reckon themſelves perſecuted for Religion, as well as Millions of poor Wretches who inhabit that Kingdom, and are, in a manner deſtitute of Food and Raiment, boaſt, with a Pleaſure ſo great as has made them, for the Time, forget their *Sufferings*, their *Hunger*, and their *Nakedneſs*, of the Magnificence and Conqueſts of their *Grand Monarque*, who to ſupport the ſame, amidſt the exuberant Plenties of a moſt beneficent Climate, had reduced them, their Families, and half their Nation, to a State of Beggary. And were we to look into other Nations and Countries more remote, we ſhall find, That the Diſtractions in *Poland*, the ſhaking off the Yoke of Abſolute Power in *Sweden*, the Revolutions in *Portugal* and *Perſia*, as well as the Revolt of the *United Provinces*, and the late *Happy Revolution* in *England*, are ſo many Confirmations of the Truth of our Argument, and have been all owing to *Male-Adminiſtration*, rather than to the *Levity* of the People, who generally bear a great deal before they grow violent.

THIS being the Caſe, all wiſe Princes have had a watchful Eye on the Tranſactions of their Prime Miniſters; and as ſoon as they have diſcover'd a National *Odium* run ſtrong againſt the Adminiſtration of ſuch, and that an over-grown Miniſter had amaſs'd immenſe Wealth by nefarious Practices and the Plunder of his Fellow-Subjects, they have not thought proper to protect *one Man* to the Injury and Abuſe of *Millions*, but

but have made a timely Sacrifice of such a Person, to appease the Resentments of an injur'd Nation, and so have dissipated the gathering Storms of General Discontent, and thereby render'd their Reigns Happy and Glorious.

I CANNOT give a better Instance of this, than by the following Paragraph, which *Divenant* collects from Two excellent *English* Historians, in Pages 307, 308, of his Discourse on *Resumptions*, which being very brief, I shall transcribe intire, with a severe, but just Reflexion of that Gentleman, on several Ministers who in the Times since those of *Henry* I. have fill'd the principal Posts of Honour and Profit in this Kingdom.

" THE first Great Person whom we find question'd " since the *Norman* Government, was *Ranulphus* " Bishop of *Durham*, who bore the Office of what " we now call Lord Treasurer of *England*, in the " Time of *William Rufus*. This Man had been the " Principal Instrument of the Profusion, and of what " is its Consequence, those Extortions, that disgrac'd " the Reign of *Rufus*: Of whose Times *William* of " *Malmsbury* speaking, says, None were then Rich " but such as dealt with the Exchequer, *Nullus* " *Dives nisi Nummularius*. This wicked Minister " was brought to Punishment by *Henry* I. who cast " him into Prison, and loaded him with Chains. " *Matthew Paris* says, *De Communi Consilio Gentis* " *Anglorum posuit eum Rex in vinculis. Malmsbury* " gives him this Character, Ranulphus *Clericus ex* " *infimo genere hominum, Lingua & Assiduitate pro-* " *vectus ad summum*; *Expilator Divitum, Extermi-*

" *nator*

" *nator Pauperum, Confiscator alienarum Hereditatum,* " *Invictus Causidicus, & cum verbis, tum rebus im-* " *modicus, nec aliorum curaret odium dummodo com-* " *placeret Dominum.* It seems he was a little insolent Fellow, who by his fluent Tongue and cringing at Court, had got Power enough to do much Hurt in *England*: A mischievous Tool against the Publick, as well as an Oppressor of private Men; Subtle to invent Wickedness, and Bold to put it in Execution, and one who would stick at nothing to raise himself. *Matthew Paris* speaking of him, says, He was, *Homo perversus, & ad omne Scelus paratus, quem Rex constituerat Procuratorem suum in Regno ut evelleret, destrueret, raperet & disperderet, & omnia omnium bona ad Fisci Commodum comportaret.* We have thus painted out this Statesman in the Colours as he is represented by those Two Venerable Writers. And he so much resembles several bad Ministers, who, in the Ages since, have succeeded both to his Post and Power, that one would think they had chosen to take him for their Pattern. "

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LIII.

*Adde quod ingratæ meritorum judice virtus*
*Noſtra perit.*—— LUCAN.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2. 1723.

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

I TAKE the Liberty to recommend the following Lines from *Ben Johnſon*'s Excellent Play of SEJANUS, which will ſhew the Methods uſed in the Adminiſtration of Evil Miniſters in former Ages, to ſuppreſs the Publick Spirit of ſuch Authors as have dared to paint in proper Colours their vile Tranſactions. That Excellent Poet, after having ſet forth the Artifices made uſe of to deſtroy *Caius Silius*, a Great *Roman* General, introduces in his Third Act, the Senate conven'd for the Tryal of *Cremutius Cordus*, for aſſerting, in a Book of *Annals* which he wrote, *That* Caſſius *was the Laſt of the* Romans; and, I believe, your Readers will not be diſpleas'd if I tranſcribe the whole Scene, which ſhew

ſhews by what *Inuendo's* and *ſtrain'd Inferences* the Tools of *Sejanus* endeavour'd to hunt down that *Roman Annaliſt.*

Enter (into the Senate) *Præco, Cordus, Satrius, Natta.*

Præ. Cremutius Cordus!

Cord. *Here.*

Præ. Satrius Secundus,

Pinnarius Natta, *You are his Accuſers.*

Arr.* *Two of* Sejanus' *Blood-hounds, whom he breeds*
*With Human Fleſh, to Bay at Citizens.*

Aſer. † *Stand forth before the Senate and confront him.*

Satrius. *I do accuſe thee here,* Cremutius Cordus,
*To be a Man* factious *and* dangerous,
*A* Sower of Sedition *in the State;*
*A turbulent and diſcontented Spirit;*
*Which I will prove from thine* own Writings *here,*
*The* Annals *thou haſt publiſh'd; where thou bit'ſt*
*The* preſent Age, *and with a* Viper's Tooth,
*Being a* Member *of it, dar'ſt that Ill*
*Which never yet* degenerous Baſtard *did*
*Upon his* Parent.

Natta. *To this I ſubſcribe;*
*And, forth a World of more Particulars,*
*Inſtance in only one:* —*Comparing* Men
*And* Times, *thou praiſeſt* Brutus, *and affirm'ſt*
That *Caſſius* was the Laſt of all the *Romans.*

Cotta. * *How! what are we then?*

Varro * *What is* Cæſar! *Nothing?*

Aſer. *My Lords, this ſtrikes at every* Roman's *Pri-*
*In whom reigns Gentry and Eſtate of Spirit,* [*vate*

* *Arruntius*, an honeſt Roman Senator.
† A ſmooth-tongu'd Declaimer, and Tool of *Sejanus.*
** *Cotta* and *Varro* Two Senators (the latter Conſul) both Implements of *Sejanus.*

To

*To have a* Brutus *brought in Parallel,*
*A Paricide, an Enemy of his Country,*
*Rank'd and preferr'd to any* real Worth
*That* Rome *now holds. This is moſt ſtrangely Invective,*
*Moſt full of Spight and inſolent Upbraiding.*
*Nor is't the* Time *alone is here diſprix'd,*
*But the* whole Man of Time; *yea* Cæſar's ſelf
*Brought in* Diſvalue, *and* He *aim'd at moſt*
*By OBLIQUE* Glance *of his* Licentious Pen.
Cæſar, *if* Caſſius *were the* Laſt *of* Romans,
*Thou haſt no Name.*

Tiberius. *Let's hear him anſwer. Silence.*

Cordus. *So innocent I am of FACT, my Lords,*
*As but my WORDS are argu'd: Yet thoſe* Words
*Not reaching either* Prince, *or* Prince's Parent,
*The which your Law of Treaſon comprehends,*
Brutus *and* Caſſius *I am charg'd to have prais'd;*
*Whoſe Deeds, when many more beſides myſelf*
*Have writ, not one hath mention'd without Honour.*
*Great* Titus Livius, *Great for Eloquence*
*And Faith amongſt us, in his Hiſtory*
*With ſo great Praiſes* Pompey *did extoll,*
*As oft* Auguſtus *call'd him a* Pompeian;
*Yet this not hurt* their *Friendſhip. In his Book*
*He often name* Scipio, Afranius,
*Yea, the ſame* Caſſius, *and this* Brutus *too,*
*As worthieſt Men; not Thieves and Paricides,*
*Which Notes upon their Fames are now impos'd.*
Aſinius Pollio's *Writings quite throughout*
*Give them a Noble Memory; ſo* Meſſalla
*Renown'd his General* Caſſius: *Yet both theſe*
*Liv'd with* Auguſtus, *full of Wealth and Honours.*
*To* Cicero's *Book, where* Cato *was heav'd up*
*Equal with Heav'n, what elſe did* Cæſar *anſwer*

(*Being*

*(Being then Dictator) but with a penn'd Oration,*
*As if before the Judges? Do but see*
Antonius' *Letter: Read but* Brutus' *Pleadings;*
*What vile Reproach they hold againſt* Auguſtus,
*Falſe, I confeſs, but with much Bitterneſs.*
*The Epigrams of* Bibaculus *and* Catullus,
*Are read, full ſtuff'd with Spight of both the* Cæſars;
*Yet Deified* Julius, *and no leſs* Auguſtus,
*Both bore them and contemn'd them. I not know*
*Promptly to ſpeak it, whether done with* more
Temper *or* Wiſdom: For ſuch Obloquies,
If they deſpiſed be, they die ſuppreſt;
But if with Rage acknowledg'd, they're confeſt.

*The* Greeks *I ſlip, whoſe* Licence *not alone*
*But alſo* Luſt, *did 'ſcape unpuniſhed:*
*Or where ſome one,* by Chance, *Exception took,*
*He* Words with Words reveng'd. *But, in my Work,*
*What could be aim'd more free, or farther off*
*From the* Time's Scandal, *than to write of* thoſe
*Whom Death from* Grace *or* Hatred *had exempted?*

*Did I, with* Brutus *and with* Caſſius,
*Arm'd, and poſſeſs'd of the* Philippi *Fields,*
*Incenſe the People in the Civil Cauſe*
*With* dang'rous Speeches? *Or, Do they, being ſlain*
*Seventy Years ſince, as by their Images,*
*(Which not the* Conqueror *hath defac'd) appears,*
*Retain that guilty Memory with Writers?*

Poſterity *pays* every Man *his* Honour.
*Nor ſhall there want, though I condemned am,*
*That will not only* Caſſius *well approve,*
*And of Great* Brutus' *Honour mindful be,*
*But that will alſo Mention make of me.*

Tibe-

Tiberius. *Take him hence.*
*We ſhall determine of him at next Sitting.*
Cot. *Mean Time give Order that his Books be burnt*
*To the* Ædiles.
Sejanus. *You have well adviſ'd.*
Afer. *It fits not ſuch* licentious Things *ſhould* live
T'upbraid the Age.
Arr. *If th'* Age *were* good *they might.*
Latiaris. *Let 'em be burnt.*
Gallus. *All ſought and burnt to Day.*
Præ. *The Court is up.* Lictors, *reſume the* Faſces.

Manent *Arruntius, Sabinus, Lepidus.*

Arr. *Let 'em be burnt: O how ridiculous*
*Appears the Senate's brainleſs Diligence,*
*Who think they can, with* preſent Power, *extinguiſh*
*The Memory of all* ſucceeding Times!
Sab. *'Tis true; when (contrary) the* Puniſhment
*Of* Wit, *doth make th'* Authority *increaſe.*
*Nor do they ought, that uſe this* Cruelty
*Of* Interdiction, *and this* Rage *of* Burning,
*But purchaſe to* themſelves *Rebuke and Shame,*
*And to the* Writers *an Eternal Name.*
Lep. *It is an Argument the Times are ſore,*
*When* Virtue *cannot ſafely be* advanc'd,
*Nor* Vice reprov'd.

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*Durham, Nov. 16. 1723.*

*SIR,*

HAVING been at this Diſtance almoſt ever ſince I ſent you my laſt very long Letter, your Paper N° XLV. but very lately came to my Hands.

AS to the Requeſt made by the Gentleman who does me the Honour to ſubſcribe himſelf PHILO-ORTHODOX, that I would continue the Subject of my Letters from the *Revolution* down to the preſent Time, and which you are pleaſed to recommend to my Conſideration; I had once intended ſo to do, and for that Purpoſe had extracted ſome Materials from the Writings of the principal Diſſenting Teachers; and in particular from the *Vindication* of that very Mr. *Pierce*, which your angry Correſpondent of *Nov.* 4. oppoſes to me: Who, amongſt other innumerable Inſtances of Scandal, irreverently tells us *p.* 211. *That the Ceremonies of the Church of* England *are dear at the Price of one Single Half-Penny*, and imputes *Relicks of Popery, Cruelty, Schiſm*, and what not? to the Eſtabliſh'd Church. I ſay, I had intended ſo to do; But ſome very preſſing Affairs calling me into the Country, and my whole Time being fill'd up with Endeavours to ſave a Worthy Family from the Jaws of Ruin, I am obliged to quit my Deſign, and ſhall be very glad, if what you have been pleaſed to inſert from me, may be thought to merit the Favour of being continued and concluded by ſome other of your worthy Correſpondents.

I THE rather wiſh this, becauſe as your Papers are not calculated only for the *Amuſement* of a *ſhort-liv'd Day*, but in all Likelihood will tranſmit to late Poſterity the Subjects on which they treat, ſo I promiſe myſelf, that the Compleating of this Deſign, of deducing from undeniable *Matters of Fact*, the *Actions* and *Provocations* of our Sectaries, will be of more Service, and carry a greater Weight, than the beſt

beſt *Single Authorities* or *Arguments* that can be produc'd; becauſe *They* can only be the *Judgment* of *Parties* in the Diſpute, however *Excellent* and *Unanſwerable*. And it is certain, that the *Principles* and *Practices* of theſe Conſtant Diſturbers of our Peace, are ſuch flagrant Arguments againſt them, that they need no more than a bare Recapitulation, or Deduction from *inconteſtible Facts* and *their own Writings*, to merit the Abhorrence and Cenſure of all unprejudiced Minds.

I HEARTILY wiſh you Succeſs in your Generous Labours for the Publick Good; and remain,

*SIR*,

*Your Conſtant Admirer,*

*and Humble Servant,*

ORTHODOX.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LIV.

*Pallida Mors æquo pulſat pede pauperum tabernas.*
*Regumque turres.* —— HOR.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6. 1723.

THE Death of the REGENT of *FRANCE* is now the Subject of every Body's Diſcourſe: We expect ſhortly to ſee a Time appointed for Publick Mourning to be worn in Remembrance of that Great Perſonage who ſo ſuddenly departed from the Stage of this World: And as there is no doubt but that ſuch a General Outward Shew of Grief will be accompanied with an Inward and Senſible Concern of many conſidering and ſincere Perſons, at the Loſs which the World may probably ſuſtain upon the Deceaſe of ſo important a Miniſter of Affairs, that muſt neceſſarily bear a Relation with the Tranſactions of ſeveral Courts of *Europe*, I ſhall, for the Entertainment of this Day, endeavour to form a Wholeſome and Political Meditation upon DEATH.

I HAD

I HAD no ſooner ventured to write down the Words, *A Political Meditation upon* DEATH, than I preſently foreſaw, that many People would be ſurprized at the Oddneſs which there ſeems to be, at firſt Sight, in that Phraſe; and in ſuch a Way of Thinking, I very well know, it is the common Opinion, That Great Politicians give themſelves but little Trouble and Uneaſineſs about *Death*, and ſuffer themſelves to be but ſlenderly touch'd with any of thoſe Ideas, about the pleaſing or unpleaſing Circumſtances, that may be conſequential to the Period of a Good or Bad Life, which ſo deeply occupy the Minds of more Illiterate Perſons, who go under the Denomination of *Chriſtians*. But how generally ſoever this Notion may have obtain'd in the World, I cannot intirely come into it. A wiſe Miniſter, that ſees with ſo much clearer Eyes than other People, the ſeveral Subordinations of Men, and the Means by which all the Humane Species are govern'd in the ſeveral Parts of this Habitable World; that looks abroad, and beholds the Riſes and the Falls of mighty Empires, brought about by little Means, and yet quite beyond the Reach of Humane Providence to foreſee or prevent; ſuch a Wiſe Miniſter muſt acknowledge ſooner than any other Perſon, That they are the plain outward Marks of an Inviſible Almighty Hand, which alone could move ſuch ſmall Inſtruments, as it ſometimes does, to bring about ſuch amazing and wonderful Turns, for Ends that we know nothing of 'till they are brought to their Perfection and Accompliſhment.

SUCH a Man, when he does conſider, that the Great Superintendant over Human Affairs, is ſo active in them, muſt think, that he does ſome Things, becauſe He is pleaſed, and others, becauſe He is diſpleaſed with the Perſons or People, upon whom He acts them. He next forms to himſelf the Thought that the Deity muſt delight in Virtue, and that the Great Men, who do what is pleaſing in the Eyes of that Deity, muſt be peculiarly Happy either in this or the other World, or both. From that Moment he regulates his Conſcience, and, after having examin'd what is proper to be done in his Station, he enters into a fix'd Reſolve, to perform whatever he thinks incumbent upon him, and whatever he believes will be moſt acceptable to the Great Author and Finiſher of his Being, in whoſe Preſence he knows he acts every thing which he performs thro' the whole Courſe of his Life, and to whom he is ſure he is to give an exact Account of all of them, whenever that Courſe of *Life* ſhall be determined.

A MINISTER whoſe Head is fill'd with theſe Conſiderations, can never act amiſs. He knows, that every Day he lives, it is as much in Nature poſſible that he may die, as it is probable he ſhall fall aſleep after long watching. For this Reaſon he always keeps himſelf ready to give an Account to the KING of Kings; when He ſhall be pleaſed to call him for that purpoſe; and therefore takes mighty Care to do every Duty of that Office, which the Ruler of Heaven has allotted him under his Royal Vicegerent upon Earth.

SUCH

SUCH a Man keeps his Conſcience in a perpetual Calm: He knows no Fear but one, and that is a Fear, which is the Beginning of True Wiſdom; a *Religious Fear*, that will not let him dare to think or to do an Ill Thing. Whatever Worldly Greatneſs he may promiſe himſelf might be the Conſequence of an Impious Action, he is ſure to diſdain and dread the doing of it, and is even, upon the *very Foundation* of that *Fear*, fill'd with ſuch *Fortitude* and turned into ſuch a *Chriſtian Hero*, that no Human Terrors can any more compell or frighten him to do what he eſteems to be wicked, than any Human Rewards of Honour or Riches could *tempt* him to do it.

WHAT can affect the Man with Fear who thus places himſelf under the Protection of a Being that is All-powerful? What Temporary Bribe can ſeduce the Man to do Wrong, who has a lively Belief, that his doing Right will be attended with an Eternal Reward; and that the Maker of all the Riches of Nature is to be his Benefactor, after he dies, during a Life that is to know no End?

SUCH a Man, in all the Caſes that come before him, is inviolably attach'd to a Spirit of ſtrict Juſtice. He deſires to meet with it Above, and, as he knows that he can only have the ſame Meaſure of it *there*, as he diſtributes it *here below* to his Fellow Creatures, he is ſure to exert it here to the pureſt Degree that he can with a Human Capacity, becauſe he has then the pleaſing Expectation, that the Rewards deſign'd by Juſtice itſelf to be beſtow'd upon the Juſt, will be

dealt out to him, by that Being, who alone can exert the Goodneſs of Juſtice in its true Perfection.

SUCH a Miniſter is always Charitable; his Study and the Application of his Life is for the Relief of Mankind, who ſtand in Need of his Aſſiſtance. For he knows, when he weighs the Difference between *Temporal* and *Eternal*, that not only He, but the greateſt King that is his Maſter, is Poor and Needy in the Sight of the KING of Kings.

HE is never Proud, but ever Meek. For he knows that Pride for what the Greateſt Man alive enjoys, can be but tranſitory; and therefore not worthy a Wiſe Man, that is conſcious he is born to be Immortal; and he is well aſſured, that a Beggar, who is truly Meek of Heart, is intitled to a Bleſſing of Heaven that is endleſs, and therefore muſt be exalted above him.

WOULD you endeavour to make ſuch a Man as this ſo much as once ſtagger in Thought towards Injuſtice? he will tell you, He is to die, and give an Account to his Great Maſter, and therefore will not do it. Will you tell him, He is to live long, have great Rewards, mighty Honours? He will anſwer, He muſt die ſooner or later, and no Temporal Rewards, no Temporal Honours, can balance thoſe which are Eternal: He is bound in *Policy* to refuſe you. If you cannot *tempt* him to Injuſtice, will you *threaten* him into it? He has no Terror of any Thing but an Omnipotent Hand; If you put his Body to Death, you do but haſten his Reward; he falls but a *Mortal Victim*, to riſe an *Immortal Conqueror*.

SUCH

SUCH is a *Christian Politician*; He is a worldly Blessing to all under him, and procures an Eternal Blessing to himself: Death can never attack him unawares: Whether it creeps upon him by the *Secret Bowl of Poison*: Whether the *Sword of a Tyrant openly* robs him of his Life; or, whether Nature, indulging the *Force* of an *Apoplexy*, or any other *secret* and *sudden* Disease, Steals him from the World, he meets Death serenely in every Shape. A *Christian* ought to *hope* this the Case of the Deceased Prince in *France*, and then 'tis good to follow his Example.

BUT the Person, who is *Political* only with *Temporal Views*, and is no more than *Worldly Wise*, lays mighty Schemes; forms mysterious Plots and Conspiracies; heaps up Loads of Riches; is always afraid of Death; it takes him in the midst of them all: *Known to every Body*, but a *Stranger* to *himself*, He dies unpitied here, and accursed hereafter? He finds himself a mere *Damocles* at a Feast, with a Sword over his Head; and discovers, too late, that he thought himself a mighty Politician, but is barely a Tool at last.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LV.

*Ecce iterum* Criſpinus.—— JUV.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9. 1723.

I HAVE often lamented it as a particular Hardſhip, that whenever I draw the Character of any Great and Good Stateſman of Antiquity, not one of the *Hackney Scriblers*, my impotent Adverſaries, will adapt that Character to any of their virtuous Pay-Maſters. But no ſooner can I deſign the Picture of a *Sejanus*, or a *Ferdinando*, than immediately the whole mercenary Herd draw their envenomed Pens againſt me, and diſcover the Original in this or that Great Perſon of the M——. And yet if you aſk that Great Perſon *himſelf*, he'll frankly own there is not the leaſt Reſemblance.

THIS partial and injurious Treatment I have more particularly experienc'd with relation to my *Spaniſh Manuſcript*; a Narrative of the Times in which it was wrote, ſo candid and ingenuous, that I thought it not un-

undeſerving the Publick Eye. At firſt, I muſt confeſs, I heſitated a little as to its Publication. I conſidered, that a Collection of Manuſcripts is ſeldom had recourſe to, when once Mankind are aſſured they may ſave themſelves that Trouble, by peruſing genuine Copies of them in every Bookſeller's Shop. However, a Principle of Publick Spirit ſoon overcame that Conſideration, and determined me to let it appear Abroad in the World, to the apparent Diminution of the Value of my Library.

IN Conſequence of my Promiſe at the Cloſe of my Sixteenth Paper, I ſhall proceed to oblige my Readers with another Extract of this curious Piece, obſerving only, that, as I judge from the Order of the Pages, the Tranſactions mentioned in the former Part of this, muſt have been antecedent, in Point of Time, to thoſe of the other.

*Page* 9. 'AT this Time *Don Carlos* ſat at the Helm 'of the *Spaniſh* Affairs, a Perſon of unſhaken Honour 'and unſuſpected Probity; an ample Indication of 'which, was, that he died un-inriched by the Plunder 'of his Fellow Subjects. *Don Ferdinando* had, for 'ſome time before this, had Pretenſions to a conſider-'able Share of the Adminiſtration; but *Don Carlos*, 'however he might admire his Eloquence, ſet a mean 'Value on his Actions, as conducted rather by the 'little paltry Cunning, and groveling Artifices, of a 'rural Attorney, than the Fine Genius, and Manly 'Sagacity, of a conſummate Statesman. There 'were ſeveral Inſtances of *Don Carlos*'s Generoſity 'and Gratitude, in the Meridian of his Power, to Per-'ſons from whom, in the Infancy of his good Fortune,

he

'he had received ſignal Obligations, and who, at the 'Time of conferring thoſe Obligations, little thought 'they ſhould one Day have Occaſion to owe to him 'their Lives and Liberties.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

THE remaining Part of this Leaf in the Manuſcript is mouldered away with Age.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

*Page* 11. 'THUS was *Don Carlos* ſnatch'd away, 'in the Prime of his Years, and Fulneſs of his Power, 'at once from the Miniſtry and the World. He was 'ſucceeded in the prime Adminiſtration by another 'of the ſame Name, but of ſuperior Dignity. This 'was *Count Carlos*. He had the ſame Contempt for '*Ferdinando* and his Creatures as his Predeceſſor, 'and was equally uncorrupt as to Money. In his 'Miniſtry arrived a Courier from *Cadix* with the moſt 'fatal News that had ever yet afflicted *Spain*; name-'ly, That by a Veſſel the Day before arrived at that 'Port, the Governor had received Advice, that the 'rich, the ineſtimable *Flotilla* from the SOUTH-'SEAS (not long before diſcovered) in which all 'the Money'd People of *Spain* had embarked their 'Fortunes, was loſt, irrecoverably loſt, being founder-'ed in a furious Hurricane, ſome Hundred Leagues 'from Shore, in an unfathomable Abyſs of Waters. 'Never had there ſuch a Conſternation overſpread 'the Face of the whole Kingdom. The People of '*Madrid*, and all the other Towns of *Spain*, ran 'about the Streets with Eyes uplifted, Hearts diſtra-'cted, wrung Hands, and torn Hair, crying out, We 'are loſt! We are ruined, and undone! Our Wives

'muſt

'must beg their Bread, our Children ſtarve, and 'ourſelves ſeek our Fortunes in Foreign Countries! 'The only Conſolation of every Man was, that not 'one of his Neighbours or Acquaintance was leſs 'miſerable than himſelf. *Ferdinando* ſaw the Op-'portunity, and was too ſubtle to neglect it. This 'was the Time for regaining his Ground, and, li-'terally ſpeaking, fiſhing in troubled Waters. He 'publickly gave it out by his Friends, that he had an 'infallible Project for *weighing up the Flotilla.* He 'confeſs'd, indeed, the Place was unfathomable; 'but however, that if he could not find a Bottom, he 'could *make* One. This he gave out with ſo much 'Aſſurance, that the deſpairing People, like Sailors 'in a Storm, willing to lay hold on any thing to reſcue 'them from imminent Deſtruction, applauded his 'Meaſures, and confided in the Solidity of his 'Scheme, though they knew nothing of the Nature 'of it, but by Reports fondly raiſed among them-'ſelves; each Man, as he was impoſed on himſelf, 'ſtill impoſing on the Credulity of his Neighbour. 'However, the Generality of the Nation was ſo 'prepoſſeſſed in Favour of his Meaſures, that *Count 'Carlos*, for this, and other Reaſons, was obliged to 'reinſtate him in the Miniſtry. *Ferdinando* having 'thus accompliſhed all he aimed at, a little while 'after pulled of the Mask. At length the Day was 'come for the meeting of the *Great Council*, which 'his Catholick Majeſty had convened on purpoſe to 'learn the Reſult of *Ferdinando*'s Labours. The 'Populace now, in a different kind of Madneſs from 'that before, ran about with Acclamations of —— 'This Day ſpeaks the Angelick *Ferdinando!* —— 'This Day ſhall we know the ſalutary Project of

'the

the Godlike *Ferdinando!* ——And he, to convince them that their Expectations of him were well grounded, got up, as ſoon as the Council was ſitting, and made the following Harangue.

"*YOU muſt all be ſenſible*, moſt illuſtrious Dons, "*that not the leaſt Tincture of Ambition or* Self-Intereſt, "*ever induced me to concern myſelf in the Adminiſtration of Affairs. I have one Ambition, indeed, and that is, Not to appear altogether unconcerned in Matters of the laſt Conſequence to the Welfare of my Country. It is not now a Time to tell you, that the* Flotilla *from the* South-Seas, *with its precious Cargo, is ſunk and loſt. I know you expect far other Things. You expect from me the Expedient I have been long contriving for its Recovery. To convince you therefore how juſtly you confided in me, I come now to inform you, That after reiterated Labours, and Midnight Studies, I have at length diſcovered, that* I know nothing of the Matter. *Laurels, Triumphs, Ovations, and Civic Crowns, were the Rewards uſually decreed the haughty aſpiring* Romans *for deſerving well of their Country; but Millions for himſelf, Millions for his Relations, Honours for his Poſterity, and a Prince's Revenues for each of his Family, are the* little trifling *Acknowledgments expected, for theſe his eminent Services to his Country, by your* modeſt, *as well as indefatigable*, Ferdinando.

'TIS impoſſible to expreſs the Confuſion this new Diſappointment flung the Nation into. Thoſe who knew from the Beginning how impoſſible it was for *Ferdinando;* or, indeed, any one elſe, to *weigh*

*up*

'*up the Flotilla*, now ridiculed their deluded Neighbours for their Credulity. But however other People might be diſappointed, *Ferdinando* certainly was not; for, by this Fallacy, he accompliſhed his Deſigns. Having by ſeveral Artifices deferred the Time of his being called upon to publiſh his pretended Scheme, he, in the mean Time, ſeated himſelf ſo firmly in the Miniſtry, that afterwards, upon Diſcovery of the Illuſion, *Count Carlos* did not think it adviſeable to take Meaſures for diſplacing him. What he would have done afterwards is uncertain, for he ſoon after died, to the great Satisfaction of *Ferdinando* and his Creatures, who diſlik'd him for nothing more, than that he was always a profeſſed Admirer of the great Abilities of the afterwards unfortunate Biſhop of *Tortoſa*, and wiſhed he could have prevailed with him to come into his Meaſures.

'NOTHING could be more agreeable to *Ferdinando* than the Situation he was now in. His Power was unrivalled, and his Meaſures unoppoſed. What Meaſures thoſe were, and how he exerted that Power, will be tranſmitted to Poſterity by more prolix Hiſtorians. For my own Part, I mention only ſelect Inſtances. His Method of ſupplying Vacancies in the publick Poſts of the Kingdom, was very extraordinary. When Perſons of unconteſted Merit were propoſed to him to fill any Station, his uſual Anſwer was, ——That it was promiſed to a Half-Brother's Son, or a Fifteenth Couſin. For my own Part, I am firmly perſuaded, that had there been a Vacancy in the Archbiſhoprick of *Seville*, and the moſt venerable Perſon in the Kingdom recommended to adorn it, I ſhould have been a very ſucceſsful Com-

'Competitor, upon the ſole Merit of proving myſelf 'deſcended from *Ferdinando*'s great Grandmother's 'Nurſe, or his Grandfather's Poſtilion.

*Pages* 12, 13, *and* 14, *contain the Extract I formerly publiſhed. Page* 15. 'The exalted *Ferdinando* grown mad at length with Pride and Power, nothing would content him now but *Canonization* after 'Death. In order to procure this, he took a Reſolution that ſurprized all *Spain*; a Reſolution of acting 'that Part he was of all others the moſt unqualified 'for, that of the *Saint*. And to induce a Belief that 'he really was ſuch, his Friends publiſhed the following Account of a Miracle wrought in his Favour, in 'the Neighbourhood of *Madrid*, which I give intirely upon their Credit, being ſomewhat ſcrupulous 'about the Belief of it myſelf. It ſhould ſeem by 'this, as if he took for a Pattern, in his *ſanctify'd* 'Capacity, that holy Man St. *Anthony* of *Padua*, 'who once preached an eloquent Sermon for the Edification of an Audience of Fiſhes.

'*SAINT Ferdinando* having obſerved, that all 'his pious Labours to reform the groſs Immoralities 'of the Inhabitants of *Madrid*, were fruitleſs, and 'taking Notice once more particularly, that by his 'Preaching he ſet all the People a SWEARING, he 'reſolved to quit this Generation of Vipers, and 'ſeek the pleaſing Solitude of a Neighbouring Wood. 'He was no ſooner retired hither, when, behold a 'Miracle! All the Dogs of the Neighbouring Towns 'and Villages, of that kind called *Harlequins*, came 'running to him, leaping, dancing, careſſing, and 'fawning upon him. The good Man could not for-

'bear

bear bursting out into Tears of pious Joy; from which, as soon as he had recovered himself, gently waving his Right Hand, he awed the little Creatures into Silence and Order, who immediately, with Tails composed, and Ears erected, listned to what St. *Ferdinando* spake to them, which was as follows.

"*THE divine Goodness*, my dearly beloved Harlequins, *is not more conspicuous in any one Species of Creatures than in you. Man, vain Man, with all his boasted Superiority of Reason, were he removed from that Sphere of Action, wherein his own Species is conversant, how dully, how insipidly, would he behave! Whilst any of you, when, by the Friendly Assistance of some propitious Saint, you have been transformed to Human, with how surprising a Dexterity have you not always acted your Parts*, most admirable Harlequins!

"*MY following little Discourse to you shall be divided into Two Heads. The first shall regard those Excellencies that are peculiarly Yours, under your Original Form of* Dogs, *in Opposition to* Mankind. *And herein I shall observe to you, That assuming Man, full of Panegyricks on Himself, proudly boasts, That he has an erect Countenance and looks upwards. But though we allow it to be true, what advantageous Inference can be drawn from hence? What Benefits accrue to Him from this Situation of his Physiognomy? Did ever any Man stumble over a Star, or break his Shins against the Moon? Did ever any one strain his Foot against a Planet, or tumble into a Ditch in the Milky Way? How much happier*

"Therefore are you, who, having your Countenances "prone to Earth, foresee and consequently avoid, those "Ills, that continually assail Man? Envy him not "their an Imaginary Advantage, that, far from being "useful to Him, is productive of numberless Misfor-"tunes.

"THE Exquisiteness of your Olfactory Nerves "Man himself will not dispute with you. Did ever "any of human Race pretend to scent a P—— like "you? To dear inimitable Creatures, could I ever have "excommunicated the Bishop of Tornoa without you "had detested Him? Without your "Assistance, how would He have triumphed over my "impotent Fulminations? This important Conquest I "must for ever owe, as the Fruits of your good Policy, "your Vigilance, your Delicacy of Conduct, most "faithful Harlequins.

"FIDELITY and Gratitude are Virtues that "so eminently adorn all the Actions of your Lives, that "Man itself regards a Dog as the Emblem of both; "and is proud of being compared to him for either. If "it would not be a kind of Injury to the rest, I would "instance in one of you, and that is in Harlequin "EBONY. 'Tis well known how a little while ago, "I extended a charitable Hand to feed him, and ever "since the little sportive Rogue has continually danced "round me with a Hooked Stick in one Paw, observa-"tious to my Whistle, and attentive to my Nod.

"I COME now, in the second Place, my beloved "Harlequins, to consider You, in your other Capacity; "that is, when by the propitious Aid of some friendly

"Saint

" *Saints you are transformed to* Human. *And under* " *this Head I might again, without any Impropriety,* " *mention to You* Harlequin EBONY, *for his* " *Transformation having been imperfect, 'tis impossi-* " *ble to say, whether he is most* Man *or most* Harlequin, " *being generally looked upon as half one, and half* " *t'other. But omitting that, let me observe to you,* " *with what distinguished Reputation and Applause* " *you acquit yourselves in the most important Sta-* " *tions of* Human *Life. How volubly do great Num-* " *bers of you open in great Assemblies,* most eloquent " Harlequins? *How piously do many of you bark in* " *the Conventions of the Devout,* most venerable Har- " lequins? *With what a Grace does* Harlequin CACO- " FOGO *extend the Truncheon? With what Exact-* " *ness does* Harlequin SIMONI *count the Quarterly* " *Pistoles? Nor can I help revering one happy Singu-* " *larity in you, and that is, That whatever* human " *Appearance you put on, you still retain every* " *truly* canine *Quality.*

" *I SHALL conclude all with a fervent Prayer,* " *That a* good Saint *may never ruin a* good Har- " lequin.

' St. *FERDINANDO* having finished his ' Sermon, made a Signal to his Audience to withdraw, ' who, after Tokens of the most profound Submission ' and Reverence, ran barking away, each to his re- ' spective Home.'

MY *Spanish* Author concludes this Story with remarking, that if *Ferdinando* really was a Saint, He differed extremely from all the Saints that ever pre-

called Him in one Respect; for They, with whatever precious Offerings their Relicks might be honoured after Death, yet in their Life-times voluntarily embraced all the Miseries of an indigent and penurious Life. St. *Ferdinand*, on the contrary, was always unpropitious to his Votaries, without incessant *Gifts* made to him in his Life-time; entirely regardless whether the People, after his Decease, should *offer* to his Shrine Gold and Silver, or Stones and Brick-bats.

THE

THE
# TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LVI.

——*Equitis quoque jam migravit ab aure voluptas*
*Omnis, ad incertos oculos, & gaudia vana.* HOR.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13. 1723.

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

I THINK, I may, justly, enough, apply to the *Stage*, in general, what Mr. *Bays*, in the *Rehearsal*, is made to say of his *Play*: The Theatre is a Kind of Political *Touchstone*; for nothing sooner discovers a *sound* or *sickly* State, than the *Taste* of its People at the Theatrical Assemblies; where no previous Arts of Preparation have been us'd, but the Audiences are left free to their own natural Impressions.

I HAVE been led into this Remark, by the cold and unkind Reception, which the new Tragedy of *Henry the Fifth* has met with, in its Acting; and which appears, now the Play is publish'd, so shamefully disproportion'd to what ought to have been expected, that one wou'd imagine, nothing less than a

general Depravity, both of Morals and Reason, cou'd have render'd it possible. The very *Subject* of this Play gave it no weak Pretence to the Favour of all *brave Englishmen*: But the *Moral* it was written for, was so Generous, and Seasonable, that it ought to have made its Interest the Care of *Both Parties*.

*Thus have our Arms, triumphant, purchas'd Fame,*
*And Warlike* England *boasts a dreadful Name!*
*Oh! that the bright Example might inspire,*
*And teach my Country-men to warm her Fire!*
*But, shunning Faction, and domestick Hate,*
*Bend all her Vigour to advance her State.*

THE great and amiable Figure, which King *Henry* makes, throughout this Tragedy, as a *Monarch*, a *Statesman*, a *Soldier*, and a *Lover*, ought, no doubt, to have endear'd Him, in a very particular manner, to a *British* Audience; and the following Reflection of that Merciful and Noble Prince, on the first Intelligence of a *Plot* against his *Life*, deserves both Admiration and Applause.

*——— Treason! ——'Tis* impossible!
*Whom has my short Reign* wrong'd? *——What* want *a People,*
*Whom* Wealth *and* Plenty *smile upon at* Home,
*And whom,* Abroad, *the Fame of Arms makes* dreadful!
*What wou'd* Complaint *have more? — Ill-judging Vulgar!*
*Were it not glorious to make* Millions happy,
*Who, that had Sense of* Bliss, *wou'd be a* King?
*The unbusied Shepherd, stretch'd, beneath the Hawthorn,*
*His Careless Limbs thrown out, in wanton Ease,*

*With*

*With thoughtless Gaze, perusing the lab'd Heavens,*
*And lilly whistling, while his Sheep feed round him,*
*Enjoys a sweeter Shade, than Kings of Conquests,*
*Hemm'd in with Cares, and shook by Storms of Treason.*

BUT, when the Chief Agent of this Treason is deliver'd into his Hands, and proves to be his late favourite *Mistress*, disguis'd like a *Boy*, the more securely to compass the Death of her Sovereign! what Prince, but so Magnanimous and Heroick a one as *Henry*, wou'd have drawn an Occasion, from so bloody a Purpose, to *punish* her with *Pardon!* to melt her Soul with his *Tenderness!* —— Instead of resenting her Insults, with the Frowns of provok'd Majesty, he confiders his *own* Guilt, as a Softening of *her*, and confesses, after a short Pause for Recollection of his Thoughts,

*'Tis true, fair Murderer, I have greatly wrong'd thee:*
*And yet, not I, but cursed Love was wrong'd thee!*
*'Tis a sad Theme; and Reason trembles at it, &c.*

IMAGINE a young Lady, of high Birth, blooming Beauty, powerfully Allied, of a violent and revengeful Spirit! urg'd and influenc'd by a Faction; remembring herself undone; and imagining she is not *only* forsaken, but *scorn'd*, and *hated*, by the Man for whom she had sacrific'd both her Quiet and her Honour! —— What *Power* of *Persuasion* must there be in Words and Sentiments adapted to a Scene, where this ruin'd and injur'd Revenger (not restor'd to the faintest *Hope*, but, on the contrary, *convinc'd* that she is to be *abandon'd for ever*) is, notwithstanding, pleas'd, and satisfy'd, and gradually charm'd

into a Return of her Paſſion, till it produces a Diſcovery of her Accomplices in the Treaſon; and her Death, by her own Hands, as an Atonement for her Purpoſe!

WHAT a Torrent of Applauſe muſt have diſtinguiſh'd ſuch a Scene, in any Country where the Audiences are accuſtom'd to be *mutke*, and have a Reliſh of *Sentiments*, or a Feeling of *Humanity*: and to what muſt we impute it, that the Sex, *moſt concerned* in this Incident of the Play, ſeem'd ſo little to be *touch'd* by it! while, as if they join'd in a Confederacy (to leſſen their own Value) they flock with Ecſtacy, to ſupport ſome Tragedies and Comedies where their Modeſty is ſhock'd, their Tenderneſs inſulted, and their laſt Favours rewarded with Inſolence and Ingratitude!

ONE would ſcarce think it poſſible, that the High and Publick Virtues expreſs'd in the following Speech, could be heard (from the Mouth of the *juſteſt Actor* in the World) without *Praiſe!* without *Notice!*

*Still I regard Thee with the ſame Deſires!*
*Gaze with the ſame tranſporting Pleaſure on Thee,*
*As when our blending Souls firſt flow'd together;*
*And mingled Raptures, in conſenting Softneſs!*
*But* Kings *muſt have no Wiſhes for* Themſelves,
*We are our* People's Properties. —— *Our Cares*
*Muſt riſe above our* Paſſions! — *The* Publick Eye
*Shou'd mark no* Fault *on* Monarchs: — *Incontagious!*
*Elſe, I, to Death had borne the dear Delight;*
*And, bleſs'd in mutual Tranſport, ſaid to* Thine.

WHAT

WHAT *Englishman*, not as tastless as the Bench he was sitting on, cou'd listen to that Description of *Mercy*, which I am about to insert, and not thankfully remember his own immediate Happiness, who lives in the glorious Reign of a Prince, so noted for his *Clemency*, that it always stands out, obvious, in the List of his Royal Attributes?

*Oh! do not, thus, with Cruelty's keen Breath,*
*Blow off, and scatter, the sweet* Dew *of* Mercy!
*When, from the Heaven of Power, that soft Rain falls,*
*The thriving State looks fresh; Dominion prospers,*
*And parch'd* Rebellion *shuts her drowsy Gapings;*
Mercy *is the becoming* Smile *of* Justice:
This *makes her* lovely, *as her Rigour* dreadful!
*Either*, alone, *defective: But when* join'd,
*Like Clay and Water, in the Potter's Hand,*
*They mingle Influence; and*, together, *rise*
*In Forms, which neither*, sep'rate, *cou'd bestow.*

BUT I had much ado, I must confess, to keep myself from laughing out, when the King's *Prime Minister*, in the Play, the chief Manager of his *Treasury!* a *Favourite!* and a *Traitor!* took upon him to counsel *Cruelty*, for the *Benefit* of the *Government!* Hear the Wretch, and ask yourselves, If it be possible to *match* him?

——Mercy *is a Topick,*
*Copious and fair! —But Men, who counsel* Monarchs,
*Must smile as simple Nature's moral Dreams,*
*And, chill'd in rarely Rigour, cast off Pity:*
Pity! *that* Waster *of a Prince's Safety!*

*What!*

*What! — shall a Villain* Hind *defy his* King,
*Spurn at his Laws, and then cry* — Help me, Mercy!
I wou'd have us'd my Sovereign like a Slave,
And, therefore, must have *Mercy! — Out upon's!*
*'Tis the* Priest's Rattle! — Heaven's *ambrosial Dies!*
*Too* thin *a Food for* Mortals! — *Men wou'd* Starve *on's!*

THO' I laugh'd inwardly and despis'd him, yet I felt my Indignation glow against him at every Word he spoke, and cou'd never bear the Sight of this Traitor Treasures with Patience, till they led him out to be *Executed*; and yet, even then too, the Audience, methought, sate as much in the *Spleen*, as if *They* had been condemn'd to be hang'd with him.

I HAVE seen this Play *acted!* — I have *read* it over and over, and still, with fresh Amazement at the Faintness it was received with! It seems, the Author *made no Interest* (as the Phrase goes) That is to say, was so Civil to the Ladies and Gentlemen, his Cotemporaries, as to suppose they were qualify'd to *hear* and *see* for *themselves*; and had Courage to *avow* their Approbation of what pleas'd 'em, without humbly waiting for the Opinion of their *Bell-Weathers*, that so they might be sure to move on with the Flock, and wear their Understandings in the Dress *most in Fashion*.

I HAVE heard it asserted, that what is fine in this Play, is *Shakespear's*; Though the Men, who object this, can never have made that Comparison, which should have gone before their Censure, yet, I am apt to believe, that in an Age, when People are so given to *plain Nature*, the Writer of this Play would

would have succeeded a good deal better, if, instead of supposing his King *Henry* to *love* like a *Gentleman*, he had push'd him *bluntly* upon his *Business*; as *Shakespear* had done before him, in an extraordinary Scene of Gallantry, which I shall give you, as a Specimen of the Justice of that Assertion above-mention'd: And let it be judg'd by the fair *Representative* of Princess *Katherine*, which of the *Two Harry's* a Modern Lady would be woo'd by? I flatter myself, that no Exception will be taken against the Judge I have submitted it to; for every body must allow, that she understands the nicest Difference betwixt one Thing and Another.

New *Harry* to the Princess.

*From Honour's Lessons, I have learnt to know,*
*That He whose Life You sav'd, should live for You:*
*I thought, when, in your Father's Court, I first*
*Fed my devouring Eye with Your Perfection,*
*I thought — fond* Novice! *and unlearn'd in Love!*
*I then, felt Passion, which could ne'er be heighten'd:*
*But now, inflam'd by rising Admiration,*
*As I come nearer your amazing Excellence,*
*Dazled with Lustre, I adore your Virtue,*
*Feel your* whole *Influence, and am* lost *in* Love.

Old *Harry* to the Princess:

King. *Do you* like *me*, Kate?

Kate. Pardonnez moy, *I cannot tell, wat is* like *me.*

King. *Give me your Answer, — i'faith, do: — and so clap Hands, and a Bargain: How say you, Lady?*

Kate. *Save*

Kate. *Save your* Honour, *me underſtand well.*

King. *Marry, if you ſhould put me to dance, or to make Verſes, for your ſake,* Kate, *why you undid me. For the one, I have neither Words nor Meaſure; and for the other, I have no Strength in Meaſure, yet a reaſonable Meaſure in Strength.* —— *If I could win a Lady at* Leap-frog, *or by vaulting into my Saddle, with my Armour on my Back, under the Correction of Bragging be it ſpoken, I ſhould quickly* leap into a Wife; *or, if I might* buffet *for my Love, or bound my* Horſe *for her Favours, I could* lay on *like a* Butcher, *and* ſit *like a* Jack-an-apes, *never off: But, before God,* Kate, *I can't look green, nor gaſp out my Eloquence; nor I have no Cunning in Proteſtation: If thou canſt love a Fellow of this Temper,* Kate, *let thy Eye be thy Cook; Love me, and take me.* —— *If not* —— *to ſay, that I ſhall* die, *is* true; —— *but for* thy Love, *by the Lord,* No. —— *But,* Kate, *doſt thou underſtand thus much* Engliſh? *Canſt thou* love *me?*

Kate. *I cannot tell.*

King. *Can any of your Neighbours tell,* Kate? *Come, I know thou loveſt me: And if ever thou beeſt mine, I get thee with* Scambling, *and thou muſt therefore, needs prove a good* Soldier-breeder. —— *Shall not thou and I, between St.* Dennis, *and St.* George, *compound a Boy, half* French, *half* Engliſh, *that ſhall go to* Conſtantinople, *and take the* Turk *by the Beard? Shall we not? What ſayſt thou, my fair* Flower de Luce?

Kate. *I do not know* dat.

King. *No, 'tis* hereafter, *to* know; *but now to* promiſe; *do but* You *promiſe,* Kate, *you will endeavour for*

*for your* French Part *of such a Boy; and, for my* English Majesty, *take the Word of a King, and a Batchelor* — &c. — &c.

MY Readers, I suppose, by this Time, have enough of *Kate* and her Lover: But He whose Appetite is strong enough, may find more, in Abundance, if he turns to the Original, in *Shakespear*. The Flights of that prodigious Genius were, unsteady, like the *Swallow's*. He is sometimes as high as Heaven, and our Eyes ake with viewing Him! But he falls, at once, to the Ground, and skims along the *Ditches*, 'till we lose him in Dirt and Brambles.

I WILL end with this Remark, That I am glad I shall be past *Blushing* — when our Posterity, inquiring an Age or two hence, what *Dramatick* Performances were *their* Favourites who had no Taste for *Henry the Fifth*? — shall be answer'd with a Smile — *The Exploits of Harlequin!* — And *The Devil and Doctor Faustus!*

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LVII.

*——Dulce & Decorum eſt*
*Pro Patria Mori.——*

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16. 1723.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

IT is the Firſt and Prime Obligation of Men to pay a due Regard to the *Divine Being*: The Second lays us under Inviolable Engagements to the Country in which we live. Whatever other Tye in Nature we may form to ourſelves, we are never to forget, that it is to be made in Subordination to the *Love* of our *Country*. There is not any Thing which the Ancients have more warmly recommended throughout all their Writings; not any Thing, which the Great Men of the moſt Heroic Ages have more ſtrongly confirmed by their Example. We cannot ſo much as read any conſiderable Works of the *Philoſophers*, of the *Orators*,

*tirs*, and the *Poets* of those Times, without being convinced, that they have, with a kind of glorious Emulation, exerted all their Talents, put all their Faculties to the Stretch, in order to give us an Idea of this Love due to our Country, superior to all other Ideas, that we can be possibly capable of forming upon it. But one cannot open a *History* of those Times without being obliged to confess, that the *Heroes* of those Days far outstripped the *Writers*, and their *Acts* gained their *Actions* to a greater Degree of Glory, than *those* could even carry their *Ideas*.

CODRUS, the King of *Athens*, just upon the Point of giving the *Dorians* Battle, consulted the Oracle, and was given to understand, That if himself were slain, his Army should be infallibly triumphant. This being the then known Situation of Affairs, his Subjects out of Love, and his Enemies out of Fear, made it equally their whole Care, their whole Business, to secure the Preservation of so important a Life. But He made it his Care to deceive the united Vigilance of both the contending Armies: Content, nay, pleased to dye, provided only that a Victory to his Country might be the Price of his Royal Life, he transforms in Disguise the innocent Field, and passes into the Camp of the Enemy: Where there took his Opportunity of quarrelling with a Soldier, gets himself killed, and by that Generous and Gallant Death, laid the most solid Foundation for the Glory and the Grandeur of *Athens*.

CURTIUS did not demonstrate a Lower Degree of Love for *Rome*. A violent Earthquake happened in the Heart of that great City, and opening itself, threatned

threatned

threatned as if it would swallow it up in a dreadful Gulph. A malignant and pestiferous Vapour, that, issued from it, spread all around a Mortal Consternation, and all the People, expecting every Minute to be their last, were struck with an universal Panick. Immediately they run and consult the Oracle, that wise Recourse made amidst such Calamities, by that superstitious People. The Oracle declares, That they must not expect to see the Gulph close up, till they could meet with a *Roman*, that had sufficient Bravery and Resolution to plunge himself Headlong into the Midst of it. *Curtius* no sooner got hold of this Intelligence, but he immediately mounted his Horse, and leap'd, upon full speed, into that frightful Abyss, and by the Loss of his Life, he preserved the Lives of all his Fellow Citizens, and acquired to himself one that will be Immortal in the Records of Fame.

WE may very reasonably judge, that Persons, who so voluntarily sacrifice themselves to the Idea which they have of procuring Happiness to their Country by it, can love nothing in Preference to that Country. Every other Affection lies buried, and every Emotion is dead within them, when the Love of their Country calls for their Attention. No *private Friendships* can bribe any Competition there; Even *Paternal Love* itself yields, when *Patriotism* is put in the Balance with it.

THUS *BRUTUS*, after he had expelled the *Tarquins*, and restored the *Roman* Commonwealth to its first Form of Government, having discover'd a Conspiracy formed to recall them, He raised in Quality

lity of Conſul, Proceedings to be carry'd on againſt the Conſpirators, and ſentenced them all to dye. He had no more than Two Sons, and thoſe he loved with great Tenderneſs; for they were all the Hopes of his Family. He found them to be engaged and concerned in the Conſpiracy; and upon that, grown as deaf to the Cries of *Nature*, as he was inexorable to the Prayers of the *Whole Body* of the *People*, who made Addreſſes for their Pardon, he ſacrific'd them the very firſt to the Publick Safety, and by their exemplary Puniſhment, kept thoſe within the Bounds of Duty, whom the Impunity of his Sons might have otherwiſe corrupted.

IF one was to hear the deteſtable Jeſts, that ſome ſelf-intereſted Miniſters have made of ſuch Heroic Acts as theſe, one would think, that they thought Hiſtory to be no better than Romance and Fiction, and that ſuch a Love to one's Country was a Madneſs not fit to be recorded by *grave Hiſtorians*, approved by *ſolid Philoſophers*, or extolled by *ſublime Orators* and *Poets*, unleſs it was Politically done to raiſe new Tools and Inſtruments of the ſame Nature for their own ſelfiſh Views.

NOW, one that is a ſtrict Follower of *Matchiavel*, would not abate you an odd Thouſand Pounds out of what we call in our *'Change-Alley* Phraſe, *Three* or *Four Plumbs*, if it was ſure to ſave his Country from otherwiſe unavoidable Ruin; Nay, the Man that ſhould make ſuch a Propoſition to him, would run the Riſque of being counted a Fellow quite out of his Senſes.

I WOULD willingly do all I could, to keep the Love of our Country alive and intire in the Breasts of all *Englishmen*; And I hope that a general *Tepidity* and *Lukewarmness* in that great Duty will never be our Case.

FOR this End, I shall shew, how a New Author, of a Neighbouring Nation, has gloried in reciting an Instance of the Love that his Fellow-Subjects bear to their Country; and I hope it will excite in us a worthy Emulation to exceed them in so important a Point of Glory.

THIS Author is a *Frenchman*, and after having spoke of the Patriots of *Antiquity*, as I have done above, he then proceeds on to this Effect, and gives us Examples of the Bravery of his own Countrymen.

'BUT what need we search among Foreigners for 'Examples of the Love due to our Country? Have 'we not those in *France*, that, if they were but as 'well related, would not be less admired? We have, 'says he, a great Number of them; Among many that I 'could produce, there is one, that, according to my Taste, 'cannot be sufficiently celebrated. After the Death 'of *Charles le Bell*, which happened in the Year 1322, 'the Crown devolved to *Philip de Valois*, who was 'nearest of Blood, in the Male-Line.

'*EDWARD* the Third of *England*, claim'd the 'Succession as the next Heir-Male in Being, tho' de-'scended from a Woman: *Philip de Valois*, says he, on

'on the contrary, maintained, that the *Salick Law* 'excluding the Women, excluded neceſſarily their 'Deſcendants. In fine, the Diſpute *(which my Au-* 'thor deſcribes with great Dexterity, as it was carried 'on in all its Gradations)* grew hot, and ended in a 'Publick Breach. *Edward* enters *France* with a 'powerful Army: He lay before *Calais*, which refuſed 'to acknowledge him. He reduced the Town to that 'Extremity, that it was going to be taken by Aſſault. 'The Inhabitants deſire to Capitulate: He refuſes to 'hear them, but only upon one Condition, and That 'he allow'd them but Three Hours to conſider upon. 'This Condition was, That they ſhould deliver him 'up Six of the principal Inhabitants in their Shirts with 'Cords about their Necks, to be made immediate 'Sacrifices to his Vengeance. He thought by ſo 'ſevere an Example to intimidate other Towns, and 'that he might reaſonably uſe thoſe with ſuch Rigour, 'whom he counted to be his Subjects in Rebellion 'againſt him.

'THE Propoſal put all the Town in a Conſter- 'nation: Six Inhabitants immediately offered them- 'ſelves as the Sacrifices; and no Friends, no Relations 'could diſſuade them. In fine, they obtain'd their 'Deſire, and were by *Edward* ordered for Execu- 'tion; But the Queen-Conſort, juſt in Time, pro- 'cured the Pardon of thoſe Gallant Men. Theſe 'Men, *ſays my Author*, ſo worthy of Immortality, 'deſerve to be mentioned with Honour, and ought 'never to be forgotten. Their Names were *Euſtache* 'de St. Pierre (he was the firſt that offer'd himſelf) 'John D'Aire, James and Peter Wiſant. The

'Names of the other Two have eſcaped the Exacteſt 'Hiſtorians.'

THE Reader here ſees, with what Love and Affection this *French* Author celebrates his *Predeceſſor-Countrymen*; and he is himſelf grown a celebrated Author among his *Cotemporary-Countrymen* for that very Reaſon.

WHAT Numbers of greater and more Heroic Examples could we *Engliſhmen* produce? How much more beautifully could we deſcribe them? And how much oftner ſhould we attempt it, if we were not afraid of being coldly received?

*HARRY the Fifth* went upon the ſame Deſign as *EDWARD the Third*, in to *France*, and made it his Conqueſt; and yet when that Hero was lately celebrated on our Stage, with all the Beauties and Advantages of Language, that could be ſuitable to adorn ſo great a Character, how little was the Audience awaken'd with the Glory of it? How coldly was that Excellent Piece of Dramatic Poetry received?

FOR my Part, I am ſo great a Lover of the Country in which I am proud of the Honour to have been born, that it is not without real Grief, I behold an Infinity of Heroic Actions done by *Britons*, that lie buried in Oblivion, merely for Want of being recorded in Noble Works that are capable of perpetuating their Fame. But it is enough to excite one's Indignation, to ſee them paſs'd unheeded by, even when an artful Hand preſents them to our View in the Fulneſs of their Luſtre and Glory.

ME-

METHINKS, the Heroes of the preſent Age ſhould, above all Things, conſider, how mightily it concerns them to protect and patronize Men of Letters, by whom they muſt one Day hope to have their own Memories rendered Eternal.

WE find enow that are ready enough to celebrate the *Greek* and *Roman* Patriots; but we do not find ſo many, who are ſo ready to immortalize the Patriots and the Heroes of *England*. Not to encourage fine Writers to do it oftner, is a ſhameful Omiſſion; but to diſcountenance thoſe who perform it in the moſt Elegant Manner, ſhews a violent Depravity of our Manners, and a ſenſible Decay of Publick Spirit, and of that Love which every *True Briton* ought to bear to his *Country*.

THE *French* admire and encourage their Authors who extol their Princes; and ſhall we who have ever excelled them in Bravery, be excelled by them in Encouraging thoſe Arts, that are like to cultivate in Ourſelves and our Poſterity that Virtue, which has made us juſtly boaſt of the Superiority of our Arms?

*I am, SIR, Your Humble Servant,*

PUBLICOLA.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LVIII.

*Ampliat ætatis ſpatium ſibi vir bonus, hoc eſt*
*Vivere bis, vita poſſe priore frui.* MART.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20. 1723.

## To the TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

LIVING in an Age when the Character of a *Trimmer* wants more than the great Authority of its Penman to ſupport it; when Diſtinctions are doubled, and *Whigs* diſtinguiſh'd by *New* and *Old*, and *Tories* by *Hanoverian* and *High-Church*; I thought I could not better divert myſelf, than by endeavouring to find out and pourtray a Perſon, that may be neither *New Whig* or *Old Whig*, *Hanoverian* or *High-Church Tory*; no, nor even a *Trimmer*; and yet preferable to all.

I AM ſufficiently ſenſible of the Impoſſibility of Aboliſhing theſe invidious Diſtinctions at this Time of Day: The Opportunity was ſlipt, when rejected

at

at a late very remarkable Period of Time; tho' that *Dutch-Leaven* has ſhewn itſelf, like all the reſt, calculated purely for their own *Matchiavellian* Glory.

BUT *Politicks* apart. Since no Party will allow but in itſelf it comprizes, if it does not monopolize, the *Honeſt Man*, That is the Title under which I will delineate my Hero; and if I can play the Part of a good Painter, let him that the Picture moſt reſembles, aſſume to himſelf the Honour of having ſat for the Face.

OUR *Honeſt Man*, then, primarily declares himſelf an Enemy to the diſtinguiſhing *Name* of all Parties whatſoever, rightly concluding, that as a Soldier inliſted muſt follow his Leader at the Hazard of his Life, ſuch a Perſon ſo enter'd, muſt, in every Reſpect, make his Conſcience ſubſervient to his Ambition and the Humour of his Patron.

BUT our *Honeſt Man*, having from much Reading and mature Deliberation, collected, That no Nation or People were ever yet found without ſome *Veſtigia*'s of Religion, he ſet himſelf to make his; and, according to the Beſt of his Judgment, fix'd upon One that tells him, in very plain Terms, That Conſcience is by no means to be proſtituted to *Avarice*, *Ambition*, or any of the *Anti-Cardinal* Virtues.

AND yet, though our *Honeſt Man* declares himſelf no Party-Man, he is of Opinion, there may be an *Honeſt Man* of any or all Parties. *Judgment* does not always wear the *Leading-Strings* of *Intereſt*; nor are

Mens Minds, any more than their Faces, under the *ſame Regularity* of *Judgment* or *Feature*.

FIRST, then, Our *Honeſt Man* loves his *Prince*, as he ought; and (as far as they act conſiſtently with His and the Publick Intereſt) his *Miniſters*. But as he cannot be perſuaded to have ſuch an unaccountable Attachment to the One, as to give a Sanction to every *Foible* of the Other, ſo he cannot allow, that every *Foible* ſhall have a Sanction that muſt neceſſarily bring a Diſparagement along with it. He knows very well, *That the King can do no Wrong*: But neither *Law* nor *Hiſtory* ever told him, That any Subject, though a Favourite, had any Right to claim an *equal Privilege* from that *Royal Maxim*.

YET our *Honeſt Man*, from a Senſe of his *own*, can look with a compaſſionate Eye on the *Failings* of *Others*. Even thoſe Miniſters, who, *prima facie*, appear to have acted on Principles inconſiſtent with the Safety and Intereſt of his Country, ſhall ſtand uncondemn'd 'till the Ballance of Sedate Reaſon has drawn their *Mene Tekel*.

FOR our *Honeſt Man* is not haſty to judge, and therefore, takes Care, above all Things, when he does judge, not to judge raſhly. And yet, though he is not ſo converſant in the *Logick* of the *Schools*, as to be able to prove *Black*, *White*, he can, from Facts, deduce Conſequences which ſhall be as demonſtrably clear as the cleareſt of the Problems of *Euclid*.

NOR

NOR is our *Honeſt Man* ſo inconverſant in Court-Affairs, as to *ſeek* or *refuſe* a *Poſt* there. Well knowing, that as too violent an Application may call in Queſtion his Integrity, ſo a too obſtinate Rejection may prove Criminal, in putting him out of a Capacity of doing, what is moſt at his Heart, a *Timely* Service to his Country.

BUT if our *Honeſt Man*, by a happy Miſtake, has got the Station he ſought not, now he is there, he cannot believe himſelf oblig'd to follow implicitely the Dictates of whoever was inſtrumental in his being plac'd there. As he imbrac'd the Opportunity of doing true Service to his Country in accepting that, though, with *Curtius*, he could leap the expanded Gulph, in its real Service, he cannot imagine, that immerging Neck-high in Ordure for the Pleaſure of his Benefactors excluſively, can ever be requir'd at his Hands.

OR, if our *Honeſt Man*, from a too malevolent Conjunction of *Court-Planets*, as has been too common, meets with nothing but Slight and Diſregard; yet will he omit no favourable Opportunity of doing his utmoſt Duty to his Country, as a *private Elector* or *Publick Repreſentative*.

IF the latter, our *Honeſt Man*, as ſoon as enter'd into the Chapel of St. *Stephen*, maturely weighs the *Reaſons* for which he was call'd there, the *Perſons* that call'd him, and the *Duty* incumbent upon him in his Call. He knows, he ſits not there for *himſelf*, but

but his *Country* and *Countrymen*; and if he Divides in any Queſtion, is ſure to go on that Side that in the Debate carry'd, in his Opinion, the greateſt Demonſtration. He wants not to be reſolv'd of Doubts *without Doors*, having ſufficiently inform'd himſelf *within* of every Thing that might inforce Conviction.

AS little does our *Honeſt Man* approve of that forever-to-be exploded Method in *Committees of Election*, of ſetting up *Minority* againſt *apparent Majority*. He has too near a Concern for his poor Country, to conſider, without Horror, the Conſequence of ſuch Diabolical Partialities. *Privilege*, *Property* and *Conſtitution*, under ſuch a Diſpenſation, are the mere *Mortuum Caput* of *Speech*. And our *Honeſt Man* would think it leſs Criminal to let Forty creep in, tho' all different in Opinion to him, on a fair and equitable Hearing, than proſtitute his Conſcience to the Conſent of a much more unjuſtifiable Excluſion.

OR, if our *Honeſt Man*, wiſely conſidering the Profuſeneſs of Expence in the *Modern Way* of *Elections*, and the Uſage of ſuch as are ſure to bid againſt him (out of a Regard to his Family) decline that too, too chargeable Poſt of Honour; and yet by his Eſtate and Figure is too conſiderable in the County wherein he lives, to be left out of the *Commiſſion of the Peace*, without any palpable Breach of Modeſty and Good Manners; In that Station, he diſcharges his Duty with *Spirit*, *Freedom* and *Integrity*. In Regard to his Oath, he ſlights not the minuteſt Matters that come before him, and, conſequently, is very far from neglecting thoſe of more arduous Weight. He takes care

to

to diveſt himſelf of every Byaſs to any thing but Virtue; then there is no Danger of his being prevail'd on to join with Sir *John* or Sir *Harry*, in running down an Honeſt Neighbour, becauſe they are old *Fox-Hunters*. If he has not that *Zeal without Knowledge* to improve a *Merry-meeting* into a *Riot*; he has, what is much more preferable, an extenſive Fund of *Charity* and *Good Nature*, which renders him at all Times ready and zealous of an unhappy *Riot* to make a *Merry-Meeting*. *Peace and Good Neighbourhood* is his daily Toaſt, and all around him have the Pleaſure to experience his *Practice* to be the Product of that noble *Theory*. He knows the Law in Intention is made for the Preſervation of every *Individual* of the *Community*, and therefore, however he may be outvoted, he can never be over-aw'd to vote on the Side of any Hard-hearted Bigot: He himſelf being a Bigot to nothing but the *Love of his Country*.

OR, is our *Honeſt Man* of a *yet* inferior Degree, and only an *Elector* of ſuch as are or ought to be Choſen Repreſentatives of himſelf: He will not permit either *Intereſt*, *Avarice*, no, not even *Neceſſity*, to interfere in the Diſcharge of his Duty. He wiſely conſiders, that he votes for *Poſterity* as well as for *himſelf*; and that as his Parents, inliſted under the Banner of True *Old Engliſh* Virtue, took very particular Care, as far as their Power allow'd, to leave him in full Poſſeſſion of *Right* and *Property*, ſo will he be palpably guilty of the higheſt Diſobedience and Unworthineſs, if he deviate from an equal Care of leaving 'em intire to his Children. This Conſideration, and *this* alone, will have an Influence upon his *Intereſt*. For Bribes, however

ever profuſely or authoritatively diſtributed, *ſhall* never reconcile him to the Man, who one Seſſion, with a labouring Hand promoted a certain Bill, and the very next, or ſoon after, evinc'd, that he could make uſe of *both* to endeavour to deſtroy, by a ſervile Compliance, the noble Eſſence of that very Act which had before paſs'd ſo much for the Security and Safety of his beloved Country.

*I am*, SIR,

*Your Humble Servant*,

*C. D.*

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

## NUMB. LIX.

*Scrutamur rimis, evertimus omne profundum,*
*Quæritur argenti ſemen, nunc aurea vena.* VIRG.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23. 1723.

THERE is ſomething ſo odd and whimſical in the following Letter, that we ſhall, for the Amuſement of our Readers, inſert it in this Paper, and ſhall be glad to receive the Sequel in the Hiſtory of the *Iſland of Phœnixes*, which we cannot but believe muſt be very entertaining to the Publick.

*To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

WHETHER I have read *Galilæus* or *Gratian*, is nothing to the Purpoſe. Manners, or the Manner of Riſing at Court, is not the Matter in Queſtion. *Trade* is my Topick, and to promote Trade the commendable Employ of every

every TRUE BRITON. In order to which, I intend to lay before my Induſtrious Countrymen Rules calculated for the Meridian of St. ——, as plain and perfect as any in *Exchange Alley*. As Sir *Fopling* ſays, 'Tis my *Coup d'Eſſay*, which however I perſuade myſelf may evince to the World, that on Leiſure and Occaſion, I am capable of maintaining the Validity of my Tenets by the Laws of *Experience* and *Example*. To imagine, that a Man muſt neceſſarily be a *Courtier*, to *know* the Court, is little leſs than to aſſert, that a Man muſt be a *Jeſuite* before *Probation*. But Preface apart: I proceed to Buſineſs.

HOWEVER, in a ſhort Preliminary Addreſs to my Countrymen, I muſt introduce my Undertaking thus, in the behalf of a *Broker*, a true *Iſraelite*, a Non-pareil in the Myſtery of *Stock-jobbing*.

*ALL who are ambitious of Poſts of Honour, Places of Profit, or Reverſions of any, or all Sorts, may, apply to me at the Sign of the* Cat and the Fiddle, *near* Pickadilly, *where, if there is any Honour in Courtiers, it ſhall go hard but your Expectations ſhall be anſwer'd by*

ISRAEL GOMEZ.

YOU ſee he does not, like your common Empiricks, ſwell up in mighty Boaſts, tho' perhaps he is the firſt of his travelling Countrymen that ever inclin'd to Modeſty. Yet, without Vanity, let me ſpeak it, he has

has, in a great measure, bespoke his Abilities in the Choice of his Sign. A *Fiddle* is a necessary Ingredient to the making a *Cat dance*, and that a *Cat* will dance to a *Fiddle*, *Probatum est*. This is a sort of Logick I learnt in the *Lobby*: For if B can prove A, and C can prove B, and so on, by an equal *Climax* of Arguments, I shall not fear to demonstrate, That a *Cat*, of whatever *Genus*, has, will, and ever will *dance to a Fiddle*.

NOW as to my Rules;

AND the *First* is; On all and every Occasion, make your Application to my *Broker*. For I must tell you very frankly, It is by no means consistent with his, mine, or your own Interest, to have *Two Shops* for *One Commodity*. I have known him some Time; ever since the Mortality of the Immortal Queen *ANNE*, of Pious Memory, and I know it is with no small Pains and Industry that he is arriv'd to the Pitch of Interest he pretends to. He made his advanc'd Steps by two Barons of foreign Extraction; but Reasons of State having deem'd it invincibly necessary to bury them alive, he found it by no means out of his way to make a Tour as far as *Constantinople*, to put a better Face upon his Pretensions at a *Christian Court*.

BUT to see the Misfortunes that attend even indefatigable Industry! Those Letters of Credence which he had obtain'd of the *true Musulmen* in his Favour, were of too short a Duration to compensate for a Tythe of the Charge and Trouble he had been at in procuring 'em.

THIS

THIS unfortunate Diſappointment put my poor *Iſraelite* on New Attempts and New Diſcoveries, in order to affix an Intereſt that might affix his Fortune. But how he arriv'd at the *Iſland of Phœnixes*, and by the Help of K. and S. fell into the preſent moſt advantageous Way of tranſmuting Braſs into Gold, ſhall be the Subject of ſome future Opportunity. So begging Pardon for this Digreſſion, I proceed to the Rules I firſt promis'd, and firſt began.

*Secondly*, Therefore, if according to the Advertiſement of my *Iſraelite*, it be a *Poſt of Honour* you aſpire to, you have nothing to do but to provide the *Quantum*, and All is ſafe; provided you take care not to part with it *before All is over*.

*Thirdly*, IF, Citizen-like, you ſagaciouſly aim at ſome *Honour*, but more *Profit*, get a Certificate under proper Hands, that you have done, will do, and are capable of doing the moſt cleanly Work, and if your Ambition extends no higher than a C ———r of the C —ms, I dare promiſe for my *Iſraelite*, you are firſt Oars for the next Vacancy. I am the more confident in his Favour, becauſe I know the Hands he works by, and that nothing but the Stepping in of a Great Man between, can render his Succeſs diſputable. And yet even then, if you are *Modeſt*, and have Courage enough to undergo that Operation which my *Iriſh* Countrymen are ſuch Proficients at, when they make *Ridgels*, I have known as unlikely things hit off.

*Fourthly*, IF you aim at a *Place in Reverſion*; which, as Matters are at preſent handled, is the only certain

certain Way of ſucceeding, —— Years Value is the Purchaſe, to be depoſited in ſure Hands till the paſſing the *Fiat*. But in that Caſe, I muſt honeſtly give you a Caution, Rather give double on the paſſing the Patent, for fear of the Appearance of a *ſuperior Fiat* againſt you: An Inſtance not old enough to be yet out of the Memory of the Living.

*Fifthly* and *Laſtly*, IF a Reverſionary Grant of Cr——n Lands be what you aim at, and you have pitch'd upon the Particulars, I moſt friendly adviſe you, Keep your Lips ſeal'd even to my *Iſraelite*, till you have made the Bargain. Be not deluded to a Confeſſion, even on the *greateſt Paroles* of the *greateſt Honour*. In this Caſe, *Merit* carries it before *Money*: and the *higheſt Merit*, like an *unſatiable Woman*, is never to be ſatisfy'd with all that is given. It is like the *Hopper of a Mill*, only quiet till an *Encreaſe of Water* ſets it on Craving.

AS for the Under-Craft Traders, ſuch as *Tide-waiters*, *Tideſmen*, and *Supernumeraries*; they are too mean to fall under the Cognizance of my *Iſraelite*. They are the peculiar Harveſt of *Pimps* and *Footmen*. My *Lady's Woman* and *Miſs's Nurſe*, aim at Things of a higher Conſideration. There is no Room for the Encouragement of Induſtry where the *Snicks* will hardly pay for a *Saturday*'s Supper.

HERE is no *Stockjobbing*, Dear Countrymen: We do not, you ſee, riſe or fall according to Foreign Occurrences. Our Prices are ſettled, and every Man is free to be a Generous Adventurer, or let it alone. Nevertheleſs, when I enter upon the Adventures of

my *Iſraelite* in the *Iſland of Phœnixes*, I can take upon me to aſſure you both of Pleaſure and Profit: We State-Projectors love to deal upon the Reſerve; and you will then find, however unfit I am to manage Foreign Concerns, until initiated by a Foreign Tour, as the poor Parſon ſaid, *I am Old Dog at Domeſticks.* And if I take Care, a peculiar Care, of my peculiar Countrymen, I hope the Precedent will admit of no invidious Conſtruction, nor run any Riſque of Pains and Penalties. And ſo, till the next Opportunity, I bid you all heartily Farewel.

*I am, SIR,*

*Your Humble Servant,*

C. D.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LX.

*Pluris opes nunc ſunt, quam priſci temporis annis.*
OVID.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27. 1723.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

TO ſhew my ſelf a good Chriſtian, I declare to you, I am not angry at your *Prefatory Introduction* of my laſt, wholly calculated for the Weal of my Country-men. True it is, *Odd* and *Whimſical* are Epithets of too much Levity for the Subject. But I conſider, that People inconverſant in ſuch Affairs, are too, too apt to ſquare Things to their own *narrow* Conceptions. I had much to do, however, to bring my *Iſraelite* to the ſame charitable Frame: But when his Paſſion had had its full Swing, on agreeing, That whenever you fell in his Clutches on that Account, he ſhould have Liberty of charging Double Commiſ-

ſions, he grew calm, and very near reconcil'd. He remain'd notwithſtanding pretty peeviſh upon me, that I had hinted any thing relating to the Voyage to the *Iſland of Phœnixes*. He pleaded, It was the ready way to overthrow his Deſigns; divulging of Secrets being the only ſure Method of producing Diſtruſts.

BUT when I offer'd, The Neceſſity of ſuch an Openneſs to the eſtabliſhing in my Country-men an Opinion of his Capacity, he acquieſc'd. Nevertheleſs, cry'd he, with a little Warmth, Do you conſider what you are about? Have you maturely perus'd my *Journal*? Of *Five hundred Inſtances* there amply related, which will you leave out, to confine your-ſelf to the narrow Limits of a Weekly Paper? And to break off, as others have done, in the Middle of a Relation, I will never give into't as long as I live. In order, therefore, to keep my *Iſraelite* in Temper, and do a charitable Work to my Country-men,

It is PROPOSED,

I. THAT *the ſaid* Five hundred Relations *be fairly printed on a Superfine Royal Paper: And every* Relation, *with* proper Embelliſhments *and* Authentick Proofs, *being likely to make One intire Sheet, the Whole will conſiſt of Five hundred Sheets, without comprizing* Preface *and* Epiſtle Dedicatory.

II. THAT *no more than* Ninety-Nine Thouſand *be wrought off; and thoſe only for* Subſcribers.

III. THAT *the Price be* Five Guineas *each Book, Half down, and the other Half on Delivery.*

IV. THAT

IV. THAT *considering the* Run *like to be on a Book of this Nature, not only calculated for the Benefit and Information of the* present Age, *but the Instruction of* Posterity, *no Advantage of a* Gratis *Book shall be allow'd to any subscribing for less than Fifty.*

V. THAT *out of the Profits, nevertheless, for the Advantage of the* next Age, *Ten thousand Pounds shall be reserved to attend the procuring a* Patent *for the sole Re-printing thereof for Twenty-five Years ensuing.*

IF my Country-men enter into this Scheme (and, for my Part, I can see no Objection, as Schemes go) I will lay aside all Considerations of less Moment, and ingage the Book shall be out before the Subscriptions are full.

BUT, as 'tis usual to recommend to the World Undertakings of this Nature, by proper *Specimens*, I have cull'd out and abstracted one of the *First* and *Shortest* of the *Five hundred*, and so *ex pede Herculem*. It is intitled by my *Israelite*,

## *The* TOUCH-STONE *of* MERIT.

TREBELLIUS, who had long held a Correspondence at the Court of *JUSTINIAN*, and from Time to Time given his Advice and Assistance, according to Emergencies; on the Return of the Emperor into his Dominions, was by Him inquir'd after, and at last introduc'd by His then great

Favourite, into the Royal Preſence. *Juſtinian*, with his uſual Goodneſs, condeſcends to make an Acknowledgment of his paſt Services, and at the ſame time requires him to ask for ſomething that might be ſuitable to His Opinion of his Merit. *Trebellius*, like a good Subject, diſclaims all Merit in the Diſcharge of his Duty, and modeſtly would have evaded an Anſwer: But the Emperor perſiſting in his Command, *Trebellius* asks for a Thing of ſmall Value, but which, not interfering with his other Affairs, as a ſort of *Sine Cure*, would content him. *Juſtinian* paſſes His Imperial Word, and orders a Day of Attendance for that Purpoſe.

*Trebellius* thought it his Duty to be mindful of his Royal Maſter's Orders, and attends accordingly: But after ſome time waiting without, being call'd in, he obſerv'd a ſpruce Spark enter the Room, and making up to the Favourite, deliver a Letter to him. *Trebellius*, who was of a Tall Stature, and ſtood at the Back of the Receiver, waiting for an Opportunity to be introduc'd to the Emperor, could not avoid the Curioſity of looking over his Shoulder, and there read to this Purport:

*I Promiſe to pay to . . . . . Fifteen Hundred Pieces of Gold, on his obtaining a Patent for the Place of*———

Mentioning the very Place which *Trebellius* had ask'd, and the Emperor had promis'd him. *Trebellius*, you may be ſure ſomewhat upon the Nettle, addreſſes himſelf to the Favourite, and modeſtly tells him,

him, If His Majeſty was ingag'd, he would take another Opportunity. *Pardon me*, replies the Favourite, *I had forgot* —— and immediately goes in. But in a little Time, inſtead of admitting *Trebellius* to the Emperor's Preſence, returns into the Room where he ſtood, and, with a Foreign Shrug, *Ah! Monſieur Trebellius*, quo' he, *the Empereur my Maiſter be very ſorry; but the Place you ask'd for was given away before you ask'd* —— *But* —— *Any-thing els* —— *Trebellius*, finding himſelf undermin'd, and *Juſtinian*'s gracious Intentions towards him, artfully intercepted, turn'd on his Toes, left the Room, and never ask'd, nor ever had, any-thing for all his Services.

I AM in my-ſelf no great Admirer of *Abſtracts*; for, generally ſpeaking, (as in the preſent Caſe) they rob the Reader of all the moſt beautiful Embelliſhments. The Relation at large reports *Trebellius* a great Stickler for *Juſtinian*, and one that went Lengths enough to have pleaded, on that Account, a great Share of Merit: and the Notion of the Emperor, on His Return, ſeems to have fallen in with that Opinion. But *Avarice* in *Stateſmen* poſtpones all *Popular Conſiderations* to that of *Self*; and that ſeems to have been the Misfortune of *Trebellius*.

BUT in the Book it-ſelf, you will have ſo many Inſtances to the like Effect, that it were uſeleſs to ſay more at preſent, than that I am,

*Your Humble Servant*,

C. D.

WE have received a Letter from the Gentleman, who ſent us the Remarks on the laſt *New Play*, which we inſerted No. LVI. containing ſome juſt Obſervations on a late *Critical* Performance of a certain Scribler; whoſe Ignorance and Malice, as the Gentleman obſerves, have puſh'd him to find Fault with this Line,

*So grows the Strawberry beneath the Nettle*;

Which he pretends, is a *Falſe Imitation* of the *beautiful Simplicity* of *Shakeſpear*, &c. When it unluckily happens to be, every Word, that incomparable Author's, and ſpoken by the Biſhop of *Ely* in his very firſt Scene: And thence our Correſpondent takes Occaſion to make this Natural Remark: "Now what "*Friend* of the Modern Author's could have wiſh'd "a clearer Evidence of his well-imitating *Shakeſpear*, "than that one of his Enemies, and ſo *able* a *Critick* "too! ſhould thus miſtake 'em for each other, and "abuſe *Shakeſpear* ſcandalouſly to do Honour to "*Shakeſpear*.!"

OUR Correſpondent proceeds with equal Juſtneſs and good Senſe, to correct that ſtupid Piece: But muſt excuſe us for declining to inſert his Letter; and indeed we cannot but wiſh the ingenious Gentleman had better imploy'd his own Time, ſince he muſt needs know, that whatever is inſerted in a certain *Brainleſs Paper*, is ſure never to be regarded; and even that it is hardly remembred to have Being, but when, upon an extraordinary Excurſion, he ſticks an

*Adver.*

*Advertisement* in his Brother *Fly*, for a double End; To expose the *Patience* of his *Supporters* in the *Number* of his Papers, and, To inform the Publick, that his Paper of the succeeding Day is to contain *Something*; which never fails to be equal with the Worst, and ends in *Nothing*, but a *Pasquin* on himself and Masters.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LXI.

Παῦροι γάρ τοι παῖδες ὁμοῖοι πατρὶ πέλονται
οἱ πλέονες κακίους, παῦροι δέ τε πατρὸς ἀρείους.
HOM. Odyſ. 2.

*Ætas parentum pejor avis tulit*
*Nos nequiores, mox daturos*
*Progeniem vitioſiorem.* HOR.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30. 1723.

## *To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

WE have often been told from the Pulpit and from the Preſs, of the Degeneracy of the World; that we are worſe than our Fathers, as They were than our Grandfathers, and as probably our Children will be than Us. I muſt own I begin to think there is ſomething of Truth in the Obſervation: And one Proof of it, which I do not remember to have been as yet taken Notice of, we may find in conſidering the Neceſſity there has been of late Years to multiply Laws upon us; and though they

they are ſo many, and ſo excellent, I don't perceive that we are more quiet and tractable under them, than our Forefathers were under fewer. Formerly our Lawgivers aſſembled very rarely, upon ſome particular Exigence of Affairs, diſpatch'd their Buſineſs in a few Weeks, put on their Boots, and Home they went again. But now, alas! We are ſo Wicked, that Six or Seven hundred of the Wiſeſt and Greateſt Men in the Kingdom are forced, for the Space of Six Months in every Year, to their own *manifeſt Detriment*, to leave their Eſtates, and to neglect their Private Affairs, to ſit up late, to lay their Heads together, to debate and quarrel, to run the Hazard of Impriſonment for talking too Paſſionately, and all this only to find out Laws enough to keep us in order. What Wretches are we to make all this neceſſary! and what Glorious Publick-Spirited Heroes are our Legiſlators to ſubmit to it!

I KNOW ſome People are of Opinion, that the Laws we have already, or fewer, if ſtrictly obey'd, might make us as good Men and as good Subjects as a Thouſand more could. It is poſſible this may be true; but the Difficulty is, how we ſhall be able to eſtabliſh this Obedience: He would deſerve well of his Country, that could effect this. A Parliament then need not ſit once in Seven Years, inſtead of ſitting Seven Years together. The Diſorders, Drunkenneſs and Ill-blood that accompany Elections, would ceaſe, and Faction would want a Place to ſhew its Head. This is a Point I have long labour'd about; and, if I do not deceive myſelf, I have luckily hit upon a Project that will do.

WHEN

WHEN the *Lacedæmonians* were in the preſent Circumſtances of our Country-men, had much Law but little Obedience; the Wiſe *Lycurgus* found out this Remedy: He collected a Body of Laws, and pretending to leave his Country only for a ſhort Time, he exacted an Oath of all the Citizens, by which they obliged themſelves inviolably to maintain and obey all thoſe Statutes 'till his Return. This being agreed on, What did the good Man do? He left the City, voluntarily ſubmitted to a perpetual Baniſhment, and never returned to free the *Lacedæmonians* from their Oath. This is the Trick, which I fancy might be played over again very ſucceſsfully; but then it muſt not be ſpoken of publickly, but only whiſpered about to thoſe who are to be the Managers of it. Let Mr. —— and —— and ——, &c. require ſuch an Oath of all this Nation, and then, under Pretence of going to *Cambray*, Ship-off for Ever. The Generality of the People, we ſee, are inclinable enough to *Swear*; and thoſe few that are acquainted with this Story, will doubtleſs give into it ſo apparently to their own Advantage. The Nation indeed will have a Loſs of ſuch worthy Patriots, but we may hope the Benefits will countervail it. The *Lacedæmonians*, 'tis ſaid, being a Crafty People, at length outwitted their Lawgiver, and after his Death, brought back his Remains into the City, and then thought themſelves at Liberty: But Honeſt *Engliſhmen* are better Bubbles, and as an *Engliſh* Author juſtly obſerves,

*The*

*They think the Pleaſure is as great*
*In being Cheated, as to Cheat.*

IF any thing is wanting to compleat the Trick, they will help out with it themſelves, rather than loſe an Opportunity of being deceived: Witneſs *Lotteries*, Witneſs *South-Sea*, Witneſs Every-thing.

WHAT then can hinder the Succeſs of this Project, if it is undertaken? And who will doubt but theſe Generous Senators will undertake it? This will be an admirable Cloſe to all the Laws they have made, which are ſo good, that we ſhall want no more; and ſo numerous, that *Jacobites* ludicrouſly ſay, in one Senſe, the preſent Government is *Law-full*. I dare promiſe, it will be attended with univerſal Benefit and Joy; They ſhall ſtand Recorded to Poſterity as *True Britons*: *Blackmore* again ſhall Tune his Harp, and Sing their Praiſes in Heroick Verſe.

*I am, SIR,*

*Your moſt Obedient Servant,*

A. Z.

## To the TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

I AM one, who have hitherto entertain'd ſuch a frightful Notion of *Matrimony*, that nothing has been able to draw me into it. So many diſcouraging *Proverbs* as we have relating to that State, and ſo many more diſcouraging *Examples*, in which I have ſeen them verify'd, have made me often reſolve within

in myſelf to live and die as I am. But ſince the late Act of Parliament obliging the Female Sex to take the Oaths to the Government, I begin to think, I might, by the Aſſiſtance of the Legiſlature, mend my own Condition, and many of Theirs into the Bargain.

FOR this Purpoſe, I intend, at the enſuing Seſſions, to endeavour to get a Bill brought in, requiring all Women, before they are Married, and as a Part of the Ceremony, to take an Oath of *Allegiance*; and another allowing the *Supremacy* to their Husbands. This ſeems to me very likely to paſs both Houſes of Parliament; and eſpecially, becauſe there are ſome Inſtances, wherein, by the Laws of *England*, Women are already adjudg'd guilty of Treaſon for Facts committed againſt their *Husbands*: And I am willing to leave it intirely to that Wiſe Body of Men, Whether the Bill ſhall have *Retroſpect*, ſo as to oblige all Women *already Married*, to take the ſame Oaths.

WHAT your Condition may be, I know not; But I am apt to think, that the Deſign, when *You* make it publick, will be well taken by *many a True Briton*.

*I am, SIR,*

*Your Friend and Admirer,*

OLD BATCHELOR.

WE acknowledge ourſelves to be under Obligations to ſeveral of our Worthy Correſpondents, whoſe Excuſe we muſt deſire for omitting to take earlier Notice of their Letters, which has been frequently owing to Ab-

Abſence from Town, and the unuſual Openneſs of the Sea ſon, which has in a manner occaſion'd a Second Summer, and been one Motive, among others of *greater Conſequence*, to detain Gentlemen from Town longer than they otherwiſe intended.

THE Worthy Gentleman that ſtiles himſelf PUBLICOLA, is informed, That we are oblig'd to yield to the preſſing Importunities of our Printer, who having pretty much ſuffer'd from the Reſentments of his Superiors, when he has leaſt thought to offend, thinks there may be ſomewhat in this Piece that may be liable to Exception from the ſame Quarter; eſpecially as we live in a Time, ſo fruitful of *good Characters*, that nothing ſeems capable to eſcape the *Conſciouſneſs* of Some, who are always ready to *Miſconſtrue* and *Apply*, on one Side, and the *Sagacity* of Others, who are employ'd to *Decypher* and *Explain*, on the other. But of this, however, we will aſſure the Gentleman, that ſuch Exceptions ſhould have no Weight with us, did we not alſo think, that the Perſonages, *&c.* that may perhaps be ſuppoſed, by our Enemies, to be glanc'd at, have ſomething in their Character too *Sacred* and too *Tender* to be deſcanted upon or meddled with, in the Manner there offer'd.

SOMETHING of the ſame Nature may be ſaid of the Excellent Letter ſign'd FERDINANDO, which we cannot ſufficiently admire; and nothing but the Apprehenſion of being miſunderſtood, and the Reaſons juſt now hinted at, could prevail upon us to deny the Publick the great Satisfaction they would receive in the Peruſal of it. If the Ingenious Writer will

will favour us with his Correſpondence on a leſs capricious Subject, we ſhall take Pleaſure to communicate his Sentiments to the World.

THE Letter of the Gentleman who ſubſcribes *A. B.* relating to the Book of a certain Prelate lately publiſh'd, which he, in ſome Reſpects, aptly ſtiles a ROMANCE, is come to Hand; and as he is ſo kind to promiſe ſome Remarks upon it, we ſhall be very glad of a Continuance of the Correſpondence, and what Lights he ſhall be pleaſed to afford; becauſe we have Thoughts to take ample Notice of this *Poſthumous Work* in ſuch a manner as may be expected from a TRUE BRITON; and for that Reaſon, ſhall refer the Conſideration of his Letter to the Expectation of hearing farther from him.

AND here it will be proper to acknowledge the Receipt of the Tranſcript relating to Biſhop *Burnet*'s Account of a Tryal in 1684.

WE ſhall take a ſpeedy Opportunity to give the Letter ſign'd RUSTICUS, relating to the Oaths, the Conſideration it ſo well deſerves.

AND we take this Occaſion to acknowledge the Receipt of the Letter on the ſame Subject from *Newcaſtle-under-Line*, and thank the Gentleman for his good Opinion, *&c.*

WE alſo thank our Correſpondent of *Gray's-Inn*, who ſtiles OLD ENGLAND, for his Letter, and ſhall regard his Advice as far as is proper.

THE

THE Perſon who preſſes us to advertiſe his *Whig Gratitude*, &c. complaining of hard Uſage on Diſcovering Treaſonable Deſigns, &c. is reminded, of the Maxim known and practiſed in all Ages and Countries, *viz. To love the Treaſon, and hate the Traytor*; and if, as he complains, he be profer'd no more than a *Tyde-waiter*'s Place as full Reward, he may be ſatisfy'd, that it may, perhaps, not only equal his Merit; but that he is *literally* upon a Foot, in that Reſpect, (however unequal in Importance the Diſcoveries might be) with his deceaſed Brother NEYNO, who alſo intended to be a TYDE-WAITER, tho' he proved a TYDE-MISTAKER.

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THE DURHAM CAVALCADE has ſome Strokes of Wit and Delicacy, as a Song, that render it not unworthy of a Place in the TRUE BRITON; but we had rather ſee it in another Paper, leſt it ſhould be thought to be inſerted for the Lucre of the *Reward* ſaid to be promiſed by a certain *Reverend Gentleman* on that Occaſion.

WE are oblig'd to our kind Friend and Correſpondent Mr. *C. Sagr—m*, for the Copy of Verſes he has ſent us upon *Evil Miniſters*, with Liberty either to inſert, or light our Pipe with it; and ſhall make a *proper Uſe* thereof the firſt Opportunity.

WE ſhall take another Opportunity to acknowledge the Receipt of the Favours of our other Correſpondents.

THE

# TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LXII.

*——— Pictoribus atque Poetis*
*Quidlibet audendi ſemper fuit æqua poteſtas.* HOR.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3. 1723-4.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

A Copy of Verſes of mine, which you did me the Honour to inſert in a former Paper on *TULLY* and *CLODIUS*, having ſucceeded ſo well, as to raiſe up the petty Scriblers of the Age againſt it, I hope this will meet with the like favourable Reception; as the Subject of it is not at all inferior to the other. I beg you will favour it with a Place in your next Paper, and you'll oblige,

*Yours,*

N. B.

Upon

## Upon the (late) Biſhop of ROCHESTER PREACHING.

*AT* Emmaus *when Chriſt our Lord appear'd,*
*Expounding Prophecies and Truths rever'd;*
*When too he vaniſh'd from his Hearer's Eyes,*
*And with Tranſcendent Brightneſs ſought his Native Skies;*
*How were their Hearts, when ſudden Light appear'd,*
*With Rapture ſeiz'd, and Grace Seraphick fir'd!*
*Pleas'd and convinc'd of every Truth they ſtood,*
*Admir'd, confeſs'd, ador'd the mighty* GOD!

*Scarce fainter Tranſports all my Pow'rs controul,*
*Glow in my Breaſt, and triumph in my Soul,*
*So ſweetly* ROCHESTER *attracts the Senſe,*
*So great's the Magick of his Eloquence.*
*How ſhall I ſpeak the Fulneſs of my Heart?*
*Or half the Pleaſure that I feel, impart?*
*How can theſe Ecſtaſies in Verſe be ſhewn?*
*This asks the Tongue of Angels, or His own.*

*Let Nature's* Rival Art *her Force apply,*
*The* ſilent Poetry *of* Painting *try;*
*To the ſtretch'd Canvaſs graceful Vigour give,*
*And teach the animated Forms to live;*
*So may ſucceeding Times her Merit raiſe,*
*And as upon the breathing Piece they gaze,*
*At once the* Prelate *and the* Painter *praiſe.*

*Here, Artiſt, here, the Godlike Teacher ſhow,*
*While liſtening Crowds attentive ſtand Below,*
*Each moving Part, each Geſture, touch with Skill,*
*And ſtrike out all the Biſhop with thy Quill.*

*In venerable Robes let him ariſe,*
*With ſolemn Air, and lively piercing Eyes;*
*His Eyes, the Type of his diſcerning Mind!*
*And lively Wit with piercing Judgment joyn'd!*
*Let Beams of Glory ſhine around his Head,*
*And charming Majeſty his Face o'erſpread.*
*His Face how comely! how polite his Mien!*
*Though ſtern, yet ſweet! though awful, yet ſerene!*

*Oh couldſt Thou, Eccho-like, his Speech renew,*
*As Honey ſweet, as ſoft as Heavenly Dew,*
*Repeat the Doctrine that all Vice diſarms,*
*The winning Rhet'rick that our Senſes charms,*
*Severeſt Truth ſo forcibly expreſs'd,*
*And Manly Senſe in Eaſy Language dreſs'd:*
*Oh! couldſt Thou ever Vocal Accents join*
*A Sharp Melodious Voice, like his, deſign,*
*As Sweet, as Clear, as Powerful, as Divine!*

*As when* Jove *ſpeaks, the Winds no longer roar,*
*Nor foaming Waves are daſh'd againſt the Shore,*
*Diffuſive Peace and Silence reign around,*
*And All's attentive to the Heavenly Sound:*
*So here* Attention *draw with eager Eyes,*
*And uplift Hands, which teſtify Surprize:*
*Touch every Form, no pleaſing Arts conceal,*
*And let each Hearer's* Face *his* Mind *reveal:*
*Here let Young Men with kindling Rapture glow,*
*And riper Tears by their Emotions ſhow:*
*Let Virgins ceaſe to roll a wanton Eye,*
*And with his moving Sentiments comply:*

*Le*

*Let Sinners* HEAR *their former Sins away;*
*The Good, the Old, become divinely Gay,*
*And ſeem to enter on Eternal Day!*

*So* ATHENS *once upon her* Preacher *hung,*
*Tranſported by the Precepts of his Tongue:*
*So ſtood great* PAUL; *ſo ſkilful* RAPHAEL *drew;*
*And as in* HIM *another* PAUL *we view,*
*Another* RAPHAEL *may we find in* YOU.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*Equidem plus hodie boni feci imprudens, quàm*
*Sciens ante hunc diem unquam.* TER.

*SIR,*

IT may poſſibly be ſome Entertainment to your Readers, if you think fit to give them the following Particulars of an Adventure I lately met with in my Travels through *Glouceſterſhire.*

ONE Afternoon I diſcern'd in the Road before me a large Carriage full of Perſons of both Sexes; and as I drew nearer, ſaw at the Tail of the Waggon a great Bundle of *Crutches*, to the Number of Four or Five Pair. I wondred to ſee ſuch a Body of *Beggars*, as I took them to be, in that Equipage, and firſt ſuſpected it had been a Gang of *Gypſies.* Their Faces ſoon convinc'd me of that Miſtake; however I rode up to the Driver, and ſaid, *Pray, Mr. Conſtable, whither are you having all theſe poor People? Not ſo poor, Sir,* ſaid the Fellow, *they have all of them good* Means, *and have hired me at Eight Pence a Head to carry*

*them to yonder Town, where we have been taking the Oaths.*

I TURNED to one of the Old Men, and ask'd him a Queſtion about my Road; to which he anſwer'd me very loud, *That he was* THICK OF HEARING. He then proceeded; —— *They might as well have left me at Home; for I don't know one Word they ſaid. But I repeated the* Lord's-Prayer *and the* Belief, *and was juſt got to the End of the* Second Commandment, *when they made me kiſs the Book, which I tried to do twice before, but cou'd not reach it.* Tho' I was ſtrangely ſhock'd with this wild Account, yet my Curioſity prevail'd with me to examine ſome of the other Paſſengers; and that I might make ſure of a direct Anſwer, I fingled out a Lad, that was crowded in amongſt them, and ſaid, *What, young Spark, have you been upon the ſame Buſineſs?* But, to my infinite Surprize, he ſtared in my Face, and cried out DIM SAISNEG. Our Diſcourſe was immediately reliev'd by an ancient Matron, to this Effect. *My Grandſon has been in* England *but a Fortnight, and was Eighteen laſt Sabbath-Day; My poor Daughter and her Husband are dead; but have left him wherewithal to paſs very well in his own Country. I deſired them to let him ſwear in his Mother-Tongue; but they told me, that no body there underſtood* Welſh; *and that it was all one if he did it in* Engliſh. *So, being a ſharp Boy, he clapp'd on his Hand, and, tho' I ſay it, ſpoke the long hard Words after the Man,* AS WELL AS THE BEST OF US.

I BEGAN to be afraid, that her laſt Words were but too true; in which I was afterwards more con-

confirm'd: For aſſoon as ſhe had done ſpeaking, an old Man addreſs'd himſelf to me, as follows; *I fancy, Sir, you can ſet us Right about our Wager. I have held Half-a-dozen of Ale, that the Land of* Iſrael *is in* Scotland, *and my Neighbour* Dobbins *ſtands to it, that it is in* Germany.

THIS extraordinary Diſpute quite confounded me, nor could I ever have gueſs'd what had been the Ground of it, but for a notable clean Old Woman, who told me, They would not hear her, but ſhe was ſure, they were both in the Wrong. *I ſtood between them*, ſaid ſhe, *at the Book, and when I declared, that his Majeſty was Lawful and Rightful King of* this Realm, *I heard them both ſay, that he was Lawful and Rightful King of* Iſrael.

UPON this clear Information of the State of the Caſe, I told them, They muſt be content to draw Stakes.

THE next, that gave us a *Specimen* of his Parts, was the Fellow that drove the Waggon. *Well, Dame*, ſaid he, *you can't deny, that I ſpoke the Words Right; and I reckon, 'tis the beſt Job of Work I have done theſe Seven Years.* I begg'd the Favour of him to explain himſelf. To which he anſwer'd; *I have a Couple of Leaſe-Holds, one from a* Popiſh *Landlady, and the other from a* ſowre-headed Presbyterian; *who are every foot teizing me to go either to* Maſs *or the* Meeting-Houſe. *They call me I know not how many ugly Names, and aſſure me I ſhall be damn'd, if I don't do as they would have me. But now I hope I have*

*pleas'd Every-body, and ſhall hear no more from them about ſuch hard Names as* Allegiance, *or* Supremacy, *or* Abjuration; *for I have taken my Oath to them* ALL THREE. O, *John*, replied my Old Woman, *if you had gone to our Parſon, before you ſet out, as I adviſed you, you would never talk ſo idly.*

THIS ſenſible Reproof, in the midſt of ſo much Ignorance and Blunder, made me the more curiouſly to examine into the Circumſtances of the Perſon from whom it came. The Sum of her Account was, That ſhe was in the *Eighty Seventh* Year of her Age, and had all her Senſes very quick; that ſhe had a pretty little *Homeſtead* worth *Fifty Shillings* a Year, which ſhe was told ſhe muſt loſe, if ſhe did not take the Oaths to the Government; That ſhe went hereupon to the Miniſter of the Pariſh, to know the Meaning of it, who had kept her with him above an Hour, and made every thing very plain to her; That accordingly, ſhe had now ſworn to be true to King *George* and the Proteſtant Succeſſion, and was reſolved to ſtand by them with her *Life* and *Fortune*.

I APPLAUDED her Caution and Zeal, and ſo took Leave of the *Caravan of Loyal Invalids*, with this Reflection, That as Two Hundred of *Abſalom's* Followers were engaged in an unlawful Act, ſo Thouſands of Well-meaning Perſons may have perform'd an Act enjoyn'd by *Law, in their Simplicity, and not knowing any thing.*

*I am*, SIR,

*Yours*, &c.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LXIII.

*Omne tulit punctum, qui miſcuit utile dulci.* HOR.

MONDAY, JANUARY 6. 1723.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

AS I ſate ſmoaking my Pipe t'other Day in a Coffee-houſe of Diſtinction, according to modern Uſage, with the Gravity of a Judge, or the Sagacity of an Alderman: I was ſtrangely ſeduc'd from my Meditations by the Chat of an inferior Claſs of Stateſmen intituled *Taylors*. They ſat all together at the next Table, and I found by the Preludes of their Diſcourſe, that they all came there to while away an Hour or two, before they made up the *Levees* of ſome neighbouring Courtiers, from whom they had Reaſon to hope

hope for ſomewhat more momentous than *Politicks*. The *TRUE BRITON* of the 27th of *December* lay upon the Table, and had lain there ſome Time: But one that could read, coming in, took it in Hand, and, at the Deſire of the Fraternity, read it aloud for common Good. So ſoon as the Perſon of Literature had made an End; *By my Faith*, ſays one of 'em, *though I can't read myſelf, I have a Son that can; and ſince Poſterity is like to be concern'd, I am reſolv'd to ſubſcribe.* *Are you ſo?* reply'd his next Neighbour, *Why then, without being a Conjurer, I can tell you, you will loſe my Lord* —— *Cuſtom. For I have heard his* Valet *Swear, That he has heard his Lordſhip Swear,* That a *Diſſenting Parſon ſhould ſooner forgive one of his Congregation the Reading a Book called the* Friendly Debate, *than he would any of his Dependants the Reading of a* TRUE BRITON. *Is that the Caſe,* rejoin'd the Reading Perſon; *Then I'll even wait to the laſt Edition before I ſubſcribe or purchaſe: And if Things go as they are, let Poſterity go as it will, ſay I; I'll venture my Neck for no Man.* All agreed with the laſt Man; ſo up they roſe, paid for their Coffee, and ſeparated to their ſeveral Levees.

AT firſt, I confeſs, I found myſelf a little chagrin'd; for I could not avoid Reaſoning thus with myſelf: *The Lord's* Valet *always ſpeaks the Senſe of his Lord, as the* Chaplain *ſometimes ſpeaks Senſe for his Lordſhip: Therefore, ſuch a Declaration getting Air, may, in ſome Meaſure, depreciate the Value and obſtruct the Sale, and perhaps, at long Run, bring me under the Danger of the Two new* P's, *more to be feared*

*feared than the other old* P. *What*, thought I, *is to be done in this Caſe*? And ſcarce had I put the Queſtion to myſelf, but my propitious *Genius* furniſh'd me with a *Salvo*, in a Reſolution to dedicate that Noble Work to that *very individual* Noble Lord, and by Way of *Panegyrick*, to tranſcribe *Verbatim* the Faithful, True and Glorious *Preamble* of that *Glorious Patent* that ſo *Glorioufly* introduced him into that *Glorious* Aſſembly: And I think under this Proviſion, I may fairly ſet at Defiance the whole Race of Decypherers to touch me in the ſenſible Part.

BESIDES, as *Se Defendendo* is allow'd in Law to be a Plea valid and indiſputable, and that *Self-Preſervation* does not, as yet at leaſt, ceaſe to be a Principle in the Law of *Nature*, I have moſt maturely debated the Matter over in my own Thoughts, and have enter'd into another Reſolution of Opening the Scene with an *Eſſay* towards a *Panegyrick* on the preſent Set of *Grandees*. Their moſt profound Skill in Politicks, their notorious Self-Denials and Diſintereſtedneſſes, together with their ſtrict Adherence to Conſtitution and Property, are Topicks ſo inexhauſtible, that I cannot but flatter myſelf, that a Touch upon that String muſt be highly acceptable and grateful to the Ears of every Subſcriber. And as for thoſe who want Ears, and, conſequently, want a Taſte for Things of that delicate Nature, I ſhall give them up to their own reprobate Senſe, and conſider 'em as too inconſiderable for any farther Notice. True it is, this *Eſſay* of mine, which I propoſe to open my Book with, will be ſomewhat laborious, and enhance the Charge; for I cannot propoſe to comprize

it

it in leſs than *half one half Sheet of Paper:* But what *is* that to a Man of my *Publick Spirit*, who had rather ſuccumb under the Narrow View of *moderate* Profits, than defraud my honeſt Subſcribers of the *minuteſt* Particle that may tend to their *Inſtruction*, *Diverſion*, or *Information*.

LET me only obſerve to my honeſt Countrymen from the Premiſes, the Advantage and Uſefulneſs of thoſe *Retiring Rooms*, vulgarly call'd *Coffee-Houſes*: Where a Man ſedately ſmoaking his Pipe (Night, Noon, or Morning, no matter whether) may collect with due Attention, ſomewhat that may be beneficial in human Life. Take me under this *Situation*, and learn by my Example to ſmoak your Pipes with Application. But I am afraid my dilating upon this Subject may inſenſibly draw me into a *Panegyrick* upon *Smoak*, which *Panegyrick* may interfere with my intended *Eſſay*, and render me as awkward a *Panegyriſt* as ſome of my Cotemporaries; Who, allowing them the Piece of Silver for every *good Line*, would find themſelves grievouſly ſore under the *meritoricus Baſtinadoes* of the Bad. In ſhort, Nature, who in her various Operations, has by her Philoſophers been imagin'd to conſult the Uſe, Benefit and Diverſion of Human-kind, by her preſent Care of that *Exotick Species*, the *Panegyriſts* I mean, ſeems to hint at their *Inutility* under the preſent Depravity of Mens Morals. But whether there is a Race of 'em, which, Silk-worm-like, lies inwrapt in their own Bowels to the Return of a more favourable Seaſon, I muſt leave to thoſe Philoſophers to determine. If there be ſuch a happy Reſerve, this I hope, like a *True Briton*, I may wiſh with-

without Offence, That a Return of *True Vertue* may, like the *laſt Trump*, ſpeedily ſummon thoſe ſleeping *Genij* from their Cells, to execute the Office they were well ordain'd for. 'Till when, it well behoves my honeſt Countrymen to ſubmit with Chriſtian Patience; and to allow, what they cannot prevent, our dull Regrators of Scandal to batten on inſipid Offals; while they offer up to their Idols Weekly Holocauſts of *Satire* for *Panegyrick*.

BUT my *Self-Timidity*, and my great *Over-Zeal* for the Grandees, has ſtrangely led me into narrow *Criticiſms* from my main Purpoſe.

AFTER I have taken thoſe prudential Precautions of a Dedication to his Excellency in the very Words of the *Preamble* aforeſaid, and a *Panegyrical Eſſay* on ſome others of his Great Brethren, I have a Trick of Reſource worth both the other, which will ſurprize Mankind, and ſufficiently SCREEN myſelf and my *Iſraelite* at all Adventures. What that is, I am certain the ſenſible Part of the World will not expect I ſhould divulge. No! not tho' I had the Parole of a whole Co —— for my Security or Indemnification. My Collection from the *Journal* of my *Iſraelite* will reveal Secrets of the firſt Rank: How ſome have *got-off*, and others *got on*: For the World is too wiſe and well read, at this Time of Day, to be ſallacy'd into a Belief, that, as the Hero in *Newgate* ſaid, *there are not Undermineres among Ourſelves*. *Trick for Trick*, was, as I remember, the Title of an *old Play*: and you may ſtigmatize it with the Name of *Corruption*, if you will, and bring it as a Proof of the Abdi-

ca-

cation of *Engliſh Honeſty*; but if I do not give every *Foreigner* a *Rowland* for every *Oliver*; I ſhall be very much miſtaken.

IN ſhort, I have begun to Collate and Prepare for the Preſs: My Countrymen have had my Propoſals, and a Specimen; therefore, they have nothing to do but to ſend in their Subſcriptions: For, like a Man of Honour, I declare, when the Patent comes to take Place, I ſhall conſider the Ten thouſand Pounds to be laid aſide for that Uſe, and advance the Price proportionably.

*I am, SIR,*

*Your humble Servant,*

C. D.

*N. B.* WHERE any of a Conſcience truly ſcrupulous can plead a Deficience of the ſuperior Metals, *Iriſh Copper*, of the *laſt Edition*, will be taken in Payment; provided it be tender'd before the *Demiſe* of the *Patent*.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LXIV.

——— *Tolluntur in altum*
*Ut lapſu graviore cadant.* ——— CLAUD.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10. 1723-4.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

YOUR inſerting at my Recommendation a Scene of *Ben. Johnſon's Play* of SEJANUS, in your Paper N° LIII. relating to the Tryal of *Cremutius Cordus* for aſſerting in a Book of *Annals*, which he wrote, *That* Caſſius *was the Laſt of the* Romans; encourages me to tranſcribe the Grandeur and Fall of that Favourite from the ſame Author; and to recommend by your Means, the Reviving of that Noble Play, at either of our Theatres, which muſt certainly be attended with great Applauſe, as I take

take it to be one of the beſt Tragick Performances of that Author.

After having repreſented this Aſpiring Miniſter poſſeſs'd of the ſublimeſt Heights of Empire, and raiſing or deſtroying, as he thought fit, all that contributed to his Ambition, or that he imagin'd capable to ſtand in his Way, he introduces him beſeeching his Maſter *Tiberius*, to give him in Marriage *Livia* the Widow of *Druſus* the Emperor's Son; hoping, that as he had already procur'd his Daughter to be betroth'd into the Imperial Family, ſo he ſhould be able by this New Step to advance his other Ambitious Purpoſes.

*Tiberius* diſſembling his Diſpleaſure at this Propoſal, condeſcends to argue with *Sejanus* againſt his Suit: and among other Reaſons gives the following.

The State thou hold'ſt already is in Talk;
Men murmur at thy Greatneſs; and the Nobles
Stick not, in Publick, to upbraid thy Climbing
Above our Father's Favours, or thy Scale;
And dare accuſe *me*, from their *Hate* to *thee*.
Be wiſe, dear Friend——
What we had purpos'd to thee in our Thought,
And with what near Degrees of Love to bind thee;
And make thee Equal to us; for the preſent,
We will forbear to ſpeak. Only thus much,
Believe, our lov'd *Sejanus*, we not know
That Height in Blood or Honour, which thy Virtue
And Mind to us, may not aſpire with Merit.
And this we'll publiſh on all watch'd Occaſions
The Senate or the People ſhall preſent.

*Sejanus*

*Sejanus* hereupon, with profound Submiſſion, ſeems to give up his Suit; but ſecretly meditates Revenge for the ſuppoſed Affront; his Pride, from a Private Gentleman of *Rome*, diſdaining to be check'd, though by his Sovereign and his Benefactor.

*CÆSAR* ſeems to know ſo well the Temper of *Sejanus*, that he expects he will but indifferently brook this Repulſe, and the Poet makes him thus expreſs his Reſentment, after the Departure of that Miniſter.

To marry *Livia!* —— Will no leſs, *Sejanus*,
Content thy Aims? No lower Object? —— Well!
Thou know'ſt how thou art wrought into our Truſt:
Woven in our Deſign; and think'ſt we muſt
Now uſe thee, whatſoe'er thy Projects are;
'Tis true: But yet with *Caution*, and fit *Care*.
. . . . . .
Thoſe are the dreadful Enemies, we raiſe
With *Favours*, and make dangerous with *Praiſe*.
The *Injur'd by us*, may have *Will* alike,
But 'tis the *Favourite* hath the *Power* to ſtrike,
And *Fury* ever boils more high and ſtrong
Heat with *Ambition*, than *Revenge* of Wrong.
'Tis then a Part of *Supreme Skill*, to grace
No Man *too much*; but hold a *certain Space*
Between the *Aſcender's Riſe*, and thy own *Flat*,
Leſt, when all Rounds be reach'd, his Aim be that.

Accordingly, that he might anticipate the Working Miſchiefs of *Sejanus*, he commiſſions *Macro*, a fit Inſtrument and Tool of Power, to watch the Motions

of his Favourite, and at laſt reſolves by Degrees to reduce his Greatneſs, which in Effect was determining to deſtroy him.

BUT as this imperious Miniſter had procur'd to himſelf Multitudes of Creatures, and even had made the whole Military Power dependent on him, the wily Prince found himſelf obliged to purſue his Purpoſes, by ſecret Methods; and one while that he forbad Incenſe and Adoration to be offer'd to *Sejanus*, which was the flattering Practice of thoſe degenerate Times to Men in Supreme Power, at other Times he appeared to lift him up to the higheſt Degrees of Greatneſs; and the following Lines on ſuch an Occaſion, when *Sejanus* had obtain'd the higheſt Aſſurances of *Cæſar*'s Favour, ſhew ſo much his immoderate Elevation of Mind, and his Ambitious Views, that I cannot but tranſcribe them, eſpecially as they were the Prelude to his Deſtruction; as oftentimes happens to be the Caſe of ambitious Miniſters, who think themſelves moſt ſecure, when they are on the Brink of Ruin.

Swell, ſwell, my Joys; and faint not to declare
Your *ſelves* as ample as your *Cauſes* are.
I did not *live* 'till *Now*; *This* my *firſt Hour*
Wherein I ſee my *Thoughts* reach'd by my *Pow'r*.
But *this* —— and gripe my Wiſhes! Great and High,
The World knows only Two, that's *ROME* and *I*
My Roof receives me not.——'Tis *Air* I tread;
And at each Step, I feel my' advanced Head
Knock out a Star in Heaven! Rear'd to this Height,
All my Deſires ſeem *Modeſt*, *Poor* and *Slight*,

That

That did before ſound *Impudent*: 'Tis PLACE,
Not BLOOD, diſcerns the *Noble* and the *Baſe*.
Is there not ſomething more than to be *Ceſar*?
Muſt we reſt there? It irks t'have come ſo far
To be ſo near a Stay. *Caligula*,
Would thou ſtoodſt *Stiff* and *Many* in our Way.
Winds loſe their Strength, when they do empty fly
Unmet of Woods or Buildings. Great Fires dye
That want their Matter to withſtand them: So
It is our Grief, and will be our Loſs, to know
Our Power ſhall want Oppoſites; unleſs
The Gods, by mixing in the Cauſe, would bleſs
Our Fortunes with their Conqueſt. That were worth
*Sejanus'* Strife, durſt Fates but bring it forth.

AFTER theſe vain-glorious Boaſts, under Pretence of farther Honours decreed him by *Cæſar*, he is drawn to the Senate, amidſt the Acclamations of his Creatures; and there arreſted by *Macro*, in the Height of all his Glory and Expectations, and inſtantly condemn'd by the very Voices that the Moment before were ecchoing out his Praiſes. And this gives Occaſion to the following Reflexions of Two *Honeſt Romans*, which finely deſcribe his Grandeur and his Fall.

*Lepidus* and *Arruntius*.

Who would depend upon the *Popular Air*,
Or *Voice* of *Men*, that have to Day beheld
(That, which if all the Gods had fore-declar'd,
Would not have been believ'd) *Sejanus* fall?
He that this Morn, rode proudly, as the *Sun*,
And breaking thro' a *Miſt* of Clients Breath,
Came on, as gaz'd at, and admir'd, as he
When ſuperſtitious *Moors* ſalute his Light!

That had our ſervile Nobles waiting him
As common Grooms; and, hanging on his *Look*,
No leſs than *Human Life* on *Deſtiny!*
That had *Mens Knees* as frequent as the *Gods*;
And *Sacrifices* more than *Rome* had *Altars*:
And this Man fall! —Fall! Ay, without a *Look*
That durſt appear his Friend, or lend ſo much
Of vain Relief, to his *chang'd* State, as *Pity!*

*Arr.* They that before, like *Gnats*, plaid in his *Beams*,
And throng'd to *circumſcribe* him, now! not ſeen,
Nor deign to hold a *common Seat* with him!
Others, that *waited* him unto the *Senate*,
Now inhumanely *raviſh* him to *Priſon!*
Whom (but *this Morn*) they follow'd as their *Lord*,
Guard thro' the Streets, bound like a *Fugitive!*
Inſtead of *Wreaths*, give *Fetters*; *Strokes* for *Stoops*;
Blind *Shame* for *Honours*, and black *Taunts* for *Titles!*
Who would truſt *ſlippery Chance*?——

I SHALL conclude this Trouble with the fine Deſcription the Poet gives of the Rage of the Populace on this Occaſion.

The eager Multitude no ſooner heard
The *Murmur* of *Sejanus* in *Decline*,
But with that Speed and Heat of Appetite,
With which they greedily devour the Way
To ſome great Sports, or a new Theatre,
They fill'd the *Capitol* and *Pompey's Cirque*,
Where, like ſo many Maſtives, biting Stones,
As if his *Statues* now were *ſenſitive*
Of their wild Fury, firſt, they tear them down;

Then

Then faſt'ning Ropes, drag them along the Streets,
Crying in Scorn, This, this was that Rich Head
Was crown'd with Garlands, and with Odors! This
That was in *Rome* ſo reverenc'd!——

THEN, ſpeaking of the Eagerneſs of the Senate to condemn him to loſe his Head, he adds:

The Rout they follow with confuſed Voice,
Crying, *They're glad*; Say, *They could ne'er abide him*;
Enquire, *What Man he was? What kind of Face?*
*What Beard he had? What Noſe? What Lips?* Proteſt
*They ever did preſage he'd come to this:*
*They never thought him Wiſe, nor Valiant:* Aſk
*After his Garments? When he dies? What Death?*
And not a Beaſt of all the Herd, demands,
*What was his Crime?* Or, *who were his Accuſers?*
*Under what Proof, or Teſtimony, he fell?*
*There came*, ſays one, *a huge long-worded Letter*
*From* Capræa *againſt him.* Did there ſo?
O they are ſatisfy'd! No more!——

——His Head no ſooner off,
But that, and th' unfortunate Trunk were ſeiz'd
By the rude Multitude; who with violent Rage
Have rent it Limb from Limb. A Thouſand Heads,
A Thouſand Hands, Ten thouſand Tongues and Voices
Imploy'd at once in ſeveral Acts of Malice!
Old Men not ſtaid with Age, Virgins with Shame,
Late Wives with Loſs of Husbands, Mothers of Children,
Loſing all Grief, in Joy of his ſad Fall,
Run quite tranſported with their Cruelty:
Theſe mounting at his *Head*; theſe at his *Face*;

Theſe digging out his *Eyes*; thoſe with his *Brains*
Sprinkling themſelves, their Houſes, and their Friends:
Others are met have raviſh'd thence an *Arm*,
And deal *ſmall Pieces* of the *Fleſh* for *Favours*:
Theſe with a *Thigh*; this hath cut off his *Hands*,
And this his *Feet*; theſe *Fingers*; and theſe *Toes*;
That hath his *Liver*; he his *Heart*: There wants
Nothing but Room for Wrath, and Place for Hatred!
What cannot oft be done, is now o'er-done.
The Whole, and all of what was Great *Sejanus*,
And next to *Cæſar* did poſſeſs the World,
Now torn and ſcatter'd, as he needs no Grave,
Each little Duſt covers a little Part;
So lies he no-where, and yet often bury'd!

THE Poet giving an Account of the like Cataſtrophe which befel the Children and Family of *Sejanus*, concludes his Performance with this excellent Caution to Great Men.

——— Forbear, you *Things*!
That ſtand upon the Pinacles of State,
To boaſt your *Slippery Height*. When you do fall,
You daſh your ſelves in pieces, ne'er to riſe;
And he that lends you Pity is not Wiſe.

THE

# TRUE BRITON.

## NUMB. LXV.

——*Fragili quærens illidere dentem,*
*Offendet ſolido.*—— HOR.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13. 1723-4.

WHILE I am examining the ſeveral Errors in the Conduct of other Men, it would be a great Abſurdity and Weakneſs to be ſo buſy in thoſe Enquiries as never to be at Leiſure enough to recollect, with proper Care and Caution, how I *ought* to behave, and how I *have* behaved myſelf in the Quality of a Political Writer. Upon a very ſerious Review, and after having made a very

grave, cool and deliberate Search into my ſeveral Papers, I muſt declare it as a very ſober Truth, That the Watch I have always had over my Pen, has not been ſo much in vain, as ſome Perſons have been pleaſed to think, notwithſtanding the Gravity of their ſolemn Heads, and the Judgment that appears in their Countenances, when they ſhake their Reverend Noddles, and affirm the Contrary, with an *Inuendoing* Severity, that would be enough to over-awe a Country-Gentleman of leſs Courage and Sagacity than myſelf; and drive a Perſon, that did not love the *Honeſt Engliſh Freedom of Speech* ſo well, as I muſt confeſs I do, into down-right Silence and Confuſion.

THERE was lately a great Perſonage very deeply Learned in *moulding* and *faſhioning* the Laws, that, ſcrewing up his Face into a Political Form, ſaid, in a large Aſſembly where I happen'd to be preſent, That the Author of the TRUE BRITON had written ſome Things, which, by annexing to them *proper Inuendoes*, would appear to be very highly Criminal in the Eye of the Law.

I MUST own at firſt I was very much diſturb'd at this Speech, delivered with ſuch a Shew of Wiſdom, and vex'd that I, who had always ſtudied to promote the Love of Juſtice and Honour, ſhould have overlook'd myſelf ſo far as to have given any Room, that I might be ſuſpected to have incurred the leaſt Diſpleaſure of any of my Readers, when I knew my Aim was to give them Pleaſure; or to have propagated any Criminal Principles, which it has been always a ſtanding Maxim with me to diſcountenance and to decr, to

the utmoſt of my Power. I could not forbear asking the Learned Gentleman, What Particular he cou'd name, in which the TRUE BRITON had behaved himſelf ſo as to deſerve that ſevere Cenſure? for it was paſt my finding out. —— *O! Sir*, ſaid he, ſhrugging his Shoulders, *It is not* Every-body *that can find it out —He is, in his plain Way of Speaking, a very Honeſt Writer; But there is a Term call'd an INUENDO among us, that will* ſhew him to have been frequently Guilty, monſtrouſly Guilty! *of criminal Libels; and I myſelf have ſtudied a conſiderable Time to whiſper about the Town ſome of theſe* Inuendoes *I mention againſt him.*

THIS Anſwer recover'd me from my former Apprehenſions, and finding that while I had ſtudied to be *Faultleſs*, others had been ſtudying how to *find Fault* with me; and that in all I had ſaid, there were (as the Divines term it) only *Scandals taken, and not given*, I departed from the Company very well ſatisfied.

AS ſoon as I came home, I reſolved to explain myſelf a little upon this Head; and I muſt ask Pardon if I treat a Subject, which ſome grave-diſpoſed People think very ſerious, after a more ludicrous manner, than they may think it deſerves.

AN *Inuendo* in the Hands and Management of ſuch a *Political* Lawyer as I have been deſcribing above, carries with it an uncontrollable Force, and bears down before it the moſt Innocent Writer in the World, whom ſuch an artful Pleader has a mind to make Guilty. It makes paſt Times preſent, and can bring

bring all the different Periods and Revolutions of Hiſtory into freſh Action before us. It can change Countries, and make *Ancient Greece* and *Old Rome*, *Spain*, *Poland*, &c. appear to be only different Names for one and the ſame Nation; and ſhew that they all ſignify the ſame as the Word ENGLAND, in their Turns. It can make *Evil Miniſters*, that liv'd never ſo many Ages ago, revive again, and prove them to be actually opening the preſent New Year with their Siniſter Operations. In fine, This *new-invented* Piece of *Law-Artifice*, that will not allow Writers to have their own Meanings, but will be ever deviſing new Meanings for them, can make as many Tranſformations out of a *plain* and *literal* Narrative, as are to be found in the *Metamorphoſis* of *Ovid*; and in ſuch Caſes the *Lawyer* may render them as *plauſible* as the *Poet*, and they muſt be own'd at the ſame Time to be as *beautifully* Fictitious.

AN *Inuendo*, or *forc'd Conſtruction*, is, it muſt be confeſs'd, a very uſeful, a very ornamental, and neceſſary Expedient for the Claſs of *Political* Lawyers. They may not improperly call it, *Their Philoſopher's Stone*; for in whatever Cauſe they apply it ſo well as to make it touch the Perſon they aim at, they are commonly ſure to make *Gold* of him, and carry away the Demonſtrations of the Power of this excellent new-invented Art in their Pockets, with great Gladneſs of Heart, and a *Secret* Conſciouſneſs of their own ſingular Merit in ſtriking out ſuch *happy*, *juſt* and *beneficial* Applications.

BUT then again, where it is unskilfully managed, it is apt to go off like *Aurum fulminans*, and only ſerve,

to

to put ignorant People that practiſe it, in Amazement, and to create Laughter among the Wiſe.

I remember, ſome Years ago, a very Learned and Zealous Gentleman, who made himſelf very Eminent for talking and writing like (what, it ſeems, he really was by Profeſſion) an *Apothecary*, publiſhed a very accurate and elaborate Treatiſe (and did it at the ſmall Price of a *Shilling*, that it might be Every-body's Money) in which he laid down many very important Arguments to demonſtrate, That Mr. *Pope*'s Poem, intituled, *The Rape of the Lock*, was a ſly and ſubtle Scheme, or Plot, contrived by the ſaid Mr. *Pope* to introduce among us Popery, Tyranny, Arbitrary Power, and a large Inundation of numerous *Romiſh* Impoſitions, Ceremonies, and Superſtitions.

I Can perfectly well recollect, that after this *clever* Diſcovery, the ſeeming Harmleſsneſs of that Poetical Performance was frequently uſed, by many *well-meaning* Readers of that *Quick-ſighted Apothecary* (who was at that Time of Day called by the *Buttonists*, *PASQUIN* upon *POPE*) as a very great Aggravation of the Guilt of that ſly, crafty and deſigning Poet.

THERE ſhortly after ran a Story about the Town, That a Country-Bookſeller, being more than ordinarily buſy in diſperſing theſe unlawful Books among the good Proteſtant Subjects in the Country, he was inform'd againſt as a Diſaffected Perſon, and, by an Order of a Juſtice of Peace, ſeized and brought before him. The Man own'd the ſelling of the Books, but could not comprehend the Guilt there was in propagating

pagating ſo Innocent a Poem.——— The Juſtice told him, That He was guilty of Treaſon, and a Propagator of Popiſh Superſtitions, and therefore ſhould be committed without Bail or Mainprize; but being unacquainted with the Nature of ſuch a Commitment, and how it ſhould be drawn in ſo extraordinary a Caſe, he ſent for a *Brother-Juſtice* to give him Aſſiſtance in ſo critical a Conjuncture. Well! the other Juſtice appears, hears the whole Story, and aſſures his Brother, That the Poem was an Innocent Poem, the Man an Inoffenſive Man; and adviſed him, for Shame, to diſcharge him. What! reply'd the Zealous Juſtice, diſcharge him? *An Innocent Poem! a Harmleſs Man! Are we Juſtices only to be ignorant of the Meaning of an Author, when all the World, beſides Us, underſtands it.* Pray, Brother-Juſtice, read that Treatiſe, (giving him the abovementioned Remarks) and you will find, That in this Innocent Poem, as you call it, a ſly Plot is carried on to introduce his Name-ſake the *Pope* and the *Devil* and all, upon us at once.

BROTHER, rejoin'd the other Juſtice, whiſpering in his Ear: *I have read this Treatiſe; It is a Comical Raillery upon Mr.* Pope, *father'd upon an* Apothecary *as its* propereſt *Author: Do not let Us get into the Number of* Apothecaries *too, and diſgrace ourſelves; That Poet is a Man of great Wit, and it will, by no means, behove Men in our Poſts to play the Fool with him.*

THE Angry Juſtice of Peace, Zealous as he was, found at laſt, with much ado, on which Side the *Jeſt* lay, and would infallibly turn at laſt, and was Wiſe enough,

enough to compoſe himſelf in Earneſt, and diſmiſs the poor Country Bookſeller, with an Air of *Gravity*, that was thought very becoming on that Occaſion; and as ſoon as the Parties that had appeared before him were diſmiſs'd, declared, He would never again be guided by *Apothecaries*, &c. and forſwore medling any more with thoſe Edged-Tools, called INUENDOES; and has accordingly kept his Word from that Day to this. Since which the Country has been intirely at Eaſe, and many good Proteſtants have bought off ſeveral Editions of *The Rape of the Lock*, without any *Publick Moleſtation*, and read it with a great deal of *private Diverſion*.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LXVI.

*Virtus repulſæ neſcia ſordidæ,*
*Intaminatis fulget honoribus:*
*Nec ſumit aut ponit ſecures*
*Arbitrio popularis auræ.* HOR.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17. 1723-4.

## *To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

PLUTARCH, in his Treatiſe intitled, *Political Precepts*; *Or, Inſtructions for the Managing of State-Affairs*, written at the Requeſt of his Friend *Menemachus*, who was entring upon Publick Employments, gives a Beautiful Number of Precepts and Inſtructions to qualify him for that Deſign; the Heads whereof I take the Liberty to recommend to your Readers, and refer them for farther Satis-

tisfaction to the Piece itſelf in that noble Author, who, by Excellent Examples, embelliſhes and confirms the following important Rules, which he lays down. I the rather deſire you would inſert them in your TRUE BRITON, becauſe it is apparent, from all their *Views* and *Actions*, that our *preſent Set of Grandees* have formed their Conduct on this Illuſtrious Model.

I. HE requires of him that will enter upon the Management of State-Affairs, to bring a *good Intention*, looking at a *right End*, without *Ambition*, *Envy*, *Jealouſy*, &c.

II. THEN, by fit Similitudes, he ſhews, how they ought to be *diſpos'd* who enter on the Management of great Affairs; that is, To *conſider* and *throughly underſtand* the *Diſpoſition* of thoſe they are to govern, that, by *ſuiting themſelves to it*, they may win them by little and little.

III. HE aſſerts, That a good Governor ought not to accommodate himſelf to the *Vices* of the People, but to manage them diſcreetly, and withdraw them by *Degrees* from Evil; and then propounds the Means of arriving at ſuch an Happineſs, the Principal of which is, By *reforming himſelf* firſt.

IV. HAVING prov'd, That the *good Life* and *Eloquence* of him who deſires *well* to manage Publick Affairs, are the *Foundations* of his *Authority*; and conſidered of what Weight ſuch a Perſon's *Speech* is, he ſhews, how he ought to behave himſelf in it.

V. HE

V. HE then ſhews the Two Ways of entring into Publick Buſineſs; the one *ſhort* and *expeditious*, but not without *Danger*; The other *more obſcure* and *ſlow*, but attended with greater *Security*; and diſcourſes very pertinently of the firſt, declaring what is to be done, and what to be avoided in it; and in particular, That a Stateſman ought to behave himſelf ſo Virtuouſly at his *Entrance*, that his very *Ill-wiſhers* ſhould be *conſtrain'd* to make way for his Preferment; That he ought to conſider, that there is every-where Work enough cut out for Men of Courage; That therefore he ſhould not ſet himſelf to degrade the *Good*, but only the *Wicked*. For when the Multitude, *ſays he*, having outrag'd ſome Good Man, ſoon after, as it frequently happens, repent of their Indignation, they think that Way of excuſing this Offence the *Eaſieſt*, which is indeed the *Juſteſt*, to wit, the deſtroying of him who was the Perſuader and Author of it. But the Riſing up, *continues he*, to humble and pull down a *Wicked Perſon*, who has, by his *Audaciouſneſs* and *Cunning*, ſubjected the *City* to himſelf (ſuch as heretofore *Cleon* and *Chitophon* were in *Athens*) makes a *Glorious Entrance* to the Management of Publick Affairs. *And then he recommends the Example of* Solon, *in his Entrance on the Buſineſs of the State*; The City of *Athens*, *ſays he*, being divided into Three Parts, the *Diarians* (or Inhabitants of the Hill) the *Pedieans* (or Dwellers on the Plain) and the *Paralians* (or thoſe who liv'd by the Water-ſide) he, joining himſelf with none of them, but being indifferent to them all, and ſaying and doing all Things to bring them to Concord, was choſen their Law-giver to take away their Differences, and by that Means ſettled the State.

VI. HE

VI. HE gives the *Second Way* of *entring* upon Publick Buſineſs; in which he lays down for Rules, That a Stateſman muſt advance under the Authority of thoſe who are moſt Reſpected in the State: That he muſt keep inviolably the Friendſhip of ſuch: That the moſt Virtuous are to be follow'd; and ſhews, by ſundry Examples, the Danger of keeping Company with the *Ambitious*.

VII. HE ſhews, What *Friends* a Stateſman ought to chuſe: That he ought not to ſhun his *Friends*, and be familiar with *Flatterers*: That for the Sake of them, he muſt not derogate from the *Authority* of the *Laws*; nor permit them to abuſe his Friendſhip to the committing Diſorders in the State. But, after the Example of *Phocion* and others, muſt prefer the Preſervation of the *Laws* and his *Country*. to any particular Perſon whatever. He then,

VIII. SHEWS, how a Stateſman ought to behave himſelf towards his Friends: That he may *favour* them after he has *ſecur'd* the *Publick*, and how far this *Favour* is to extend.

IX. HE gives the Stateſman Rules how he ought to behave himſelf towards his *Enemies*: That he muſt lay aſide his *particular Reſentments*, when the *Service* of the *Publick* is in Queſtion: And records the following Noble Inſtance to this Purpoſe: *Cretinas* the *Magneſian*, *ſays he*, having for his Adverſary or Rival in the Government, one *Hermeas*, a Man not Powerful and Rich, but Ambitious and High-ſpirited, when the *Mithridatick* War came on, ſeeing the City in Danger, deſired *Hermeas* either to take the Govern-

ment upon himſelf, or manage the Affair whilſt he retired; or, if he would have him take the Command of the Army, to depart himſelf immediately, leſt they ſhould, through their ambitious Contention, deſtroy the City; The Propoſal pleas'd *Hermeas*, who ſaying, That *Cretinas* was a better Soldier than himſelf, did, with his Wife and Children, quit the City. *Cretinas* then ſent him forth before, furniſhing him out of his *own Eſtate* with all ſuch Things as are more uſeful to thoſe that flee from Home, than to thoſe that are beſieg'd; and excellently defending the City, unexpectedly preſerv'd it, being at the Point to be deſtroy'd. *Our Author proceeds*; For if 'tis generous, and proceeding from a magnanimous Spirit to cry out,

*I love my Children, but my Country more,*

Why ſhould it not be readier for every one of them to ſay, *I hate this Man, and deſire to do him a Diſkindneſs, but the Love of my Country has greater Power over me*? For not to condeſcend to be reconcil'd to an Enemy, for thoſe very Cauſes, for which we ought to abandon a Friend, is even to Extremity ſavage, and brutiſh. He then concludes, That 'tis however, incomparably better, not to hate *any one* for *one's own particular* Intereſt or Humour; but only, to be an Enemy to thoſe that would prejudice the Publick; *and aſſerts*, That we ought to praiſe even our Enemies in juſt Things, and to uphold them if they are unjuſtly calumniated. *A Doctrine that never was reduced to Practice 'till the virtuous Times in which we live!*

X. HE conſiders, Whether a Stateſman ought to concern himſelf in ALL Publick Affairs: and reſolves, That he ought to manage ONLY what is of greateſt

greatest Importance; and that for the following Reasons. 1. Because 'tis more August. 2. Because the contrary renders one suspected of *Ambition* and *Vain-Glory*. 3. Because it makes him *Odious* and *Ridiculous*. 4. Because he ought to shun the Ill-will of others, whether Great or Little. 5. That shewing himself a Lover of Publick Good, he must not imagine himself to be able to manage *every Thing*; but must, as do the Masters of Ships, make use of others. 6. That by this means Publick Affairs are better regulated. And, 7. That 'tis a great Shame and Folly to think of doing *many Things* himself *alone*, since he often finds enough to do in performing *one* as he *ought*.

XI. He treats of the *Prudence* with which a Statesman ought to be furnished for obviating *Calumnies*, and procuring what is for the Publick Good to be receiv'd by the People, yea, even by his very Enemies.

XII. THAT he ought not to hunt after ALL Offices, and how he ought to behave himself as well in Great as Little Employs.

XIII. THAT it behoves him that enters upon any Office, not only to have at hand those Arguments of which *Pericles* put himself in mind, when he first received the Robe of State: *Bethink thyself*, Pericles, *thou govern'st* Freemen, *thou govern'st* Grecians, *yea*, *Citizens of* Athens; but farther also, he ought to say thus to himself, *Thou being a* Subject, *govern'st a City which is under the Obedience of* Cæsar's *Proconsul or Lieutenant. Thou must make thy Robe scanter; look from the Pavilion to the Tribunal, and not place too great*

*Confidence in thy* Crown, *ſince thou ſeeſt* Shoes *over thy Head.* He then concludes, That Men, by not making ſuitable Reflections on the Importance of their Office, and what is required of them in it, indanger their Lives, or at leaſt render themſelves contemptible and ridiculous.

XIV. THAT a Stateſman ought to keep Friendſhip with other Lords or Great Men, of whoſe Good Will he may ſtand in need; and refer all to the Publick Profit.

XV. THAT he ought to take heed, leſt by ſeeking the Friendſhip of FOREIGN PRINCES, he bring his Country into Slavery. This he attributes to the Avarice and Ambition of the chief Men in a State, who either by injuring their Fellow-Subjects, compel them to fly out of their Country; or in ſuch things wherein they differ from one another, diſdaining to be worſted by their Equals, they bring in ſuch as are more powerful; whence both the Council, People, Courts of Judicature, and whole Magiſtracy loſe their Authority. But he ought to appeaſe private Citizens by Equality, and mightier Men by mutual Submiſſions, ſo as to keep Peace within the Commonwealth, and coolly to determine their Affairs; making for theſe Things, as it were for Secret Diſeaſes, a certain *Political Medicine*, both being himſelf rather willing to be vanquiſh'd among his Fellow-Citizens, than to get the better by the Injury and Diſſolution of his Country's Rights, and requeſting the ſame of every one elſe, and teaching them how great a Miſchief this Obſtinacy in Contending is.

XVI. FROM

XVI. FROM hence he proceeds naturally to ſhew, That if there be any Diſeaſe in the State, a good Stateſman ought to conceal it, and cure it *Within*; ſince Remedies from *Without* are dangerous: That in this Caſe he muſt Act and Speak freely; and ſhould not deſire to over-live his Country's Ruin.

XVII. HE ſhews, How he that manages State-Affairs is to converſe with his Companions, and after having cenſur'd the Arrogance and Envy of Men in Power, adds this Noble Rule: One ought, ſays he, to court his Superior, advance his Inferior, honour his Equal, and love and embrace all, as having been made Friends, not by eating at the ſame Table, drinking in the ſame Cup, or meeting at the ſame ſolemn Feaſt, but by a *Common* and *Publick Bond*, and having, in ſome ſort, an *Hereditary Benevolence* deriv'd from their *Country*. And this, as his other Rules, he illuſtrates by ſeveral Noble Inſtances, which the Limits of your Paper will not permit to be recited.

XVIII. HE diſcourſes on the Art of Government, ſhewing wherein it conſiſts; to wit, In teaching all to Obey well, and ſubject themſelves to him who commands.

XIX. HE, conſequently, treats of the Duty of good Subjects in a regulated State, and how they ought to help their Magiſtrates, and profit the Publick; becauſe the General Law authorizes him who does what is juſt: But yet on Condition that no *Novelty* be attempted, unleſs in Caſes of Neceſſity or great Importance.

XX. HE ſhews in what Things a Magiſtrate may gratify the People; By accommodating himſelf to little People, when the Publick Intereſt is not concern'd; and by drawing them with Sweetneſs and Diſcretion from great Dangers.

XXI. IN executing Affairs of great Conſequence, he ſhews what Perſons a Magiſtrate ought to chuſe for his Aſſiſtants; to wit, The moſt Powerful, and the Mildeſt, who have Wiſdom, without a contentious Humour.

XXII. OF what Vices he ought to beware, and principally of AVARICE and AMBITION.

XXIII. THAT a Stateſman ſhould not deſpiſe *Glory* or *true Honour*; and that there is nothing which renders one Man ſo obſequious and ſubmiſſive to another, as the Confidence of his good Will, and the Opinion his Actions inſpire of his *Integrity* and *Juſtice*. Wherefore *Demoſthenes*, ſays he, rightly affirm'd, That the greateſt Preſervative of States againſt Tyrants, is *Diſtruſt*: For the Part of the Soul by which we *believe*, is moſt apt to be caught.

XXIV. THE Two principal Advantages in which a Magiſtrate may glory, and by which he ought to think himſelf honour'd, are, *That the People Confide in him*; and, *That they Love him, and wiſh him well*. And under this Head, he proceeds to give Examples how prejudicial the Ill-will of the People is to a Governor; and, on the contrary, how ſerviceable their Amity; and obſerves, That of all Loves, the ſtrongeſt

and

and divineſt, is that which is by Cities and States borne to any Man for his Virtue.

XXV. HIS next Rule relates to *Largeſſes* or *Bounties* to the *Publick*; but this being a Caſe peculiar to the Great Men among the *Antients*, I ſhall not trouble the Little ones among the *Moderns* with repeating any Thing about it.

XXVI. THAT the People muſt not be manag'd by *ſuperfluous Expences*; but by *Virtue*, *Prudence*, and *Eloquence*; And under this Head, he gives an admirable Deſcription of a *good Stateſman*, which I muſt refer to the many *Living Examples* of the ſame, in the preſent Age, having not Room to recite it here.

XXVII. HOW a good Magiſtrate ought to govern himſelf in *Seditions* and *Civil Wars*; That he ought not to join with ONE PARTY to RUINE the OTHER. That he ought to ſpeak to BOTH, to help them in *common*, and to bring them to Agreement; and, if poſſible, prevent *Sedition*.

XXVIII. and Laſtly, HE inſtructs him who manages State-Affairs, to procure the Continuance of *Peace* and *Union* amongſt his Fellow-Subjects: He obſerves, That as a Conflagration ſeldom begins in Sacred and Publick Places; but that a Candle negligently left in an Houſe, or the burning of a little Traſh or Rubbiſh, raiſes a great Fire, and works a common Miſchief: So *Sedition* in a State, is not always kindled by Contentions about *Publick Affairs*; but oftentimes the Differences ariſing from private Concerns and Jangles, being propagated into the Publick, have di-

ſturb'd a whole City: And concludes from ſeveral Examples, That the Beginnings of Evils muſt be prevented and extinguiſhed betimes; and that 'tis not unbecoming a Great Stateſman to endeavour to compoſe *private Animoſities*; For, *ſays he*, Contentions about *Publick Matters*, where *Private Grudges* are taken away, are ſoon appeas'd, and bring no difficult or fatal Miſchiefs.

I SHALL only add, That 'tis to be preſumed this Excellent Author did not live in an Age, when *Private Vices* were eſteem'd *Publick Benefits*; and that People then, had not the Art to make *themſelves* formidable by the *Diviſions* and *Animoſities* of their *Fellow-Subjects*.

*I am; SIR,*

*Your Humble Servant,*

R. S.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LXVII.

*Auro pulſa fides, auro venalia jura.* PROP.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20. 1723-4.

THE Wiſdom of our Anceſtors in the Conſtitution and Frame of the *Britiſh* Government, is never enough to be admired and applauded. We have often touch'd upon the Excellency of our Conſtitution, and ſhall not now repeat what we have heretofore ſaid on that Subject; But ſhall take this Occaſion to preſent our Readers with a View of the Conſtitution of the *Exchequer*, and the Care which our Anceſtors took to prevent private Men from raiſing exorbitant Fortunes at the Publick Expence; as it is preſented us by a late celebrated Author,* to whoſe Works we are beholden for ſeveral valuable Tranſcripts, in the Courſe of our former Papers: And this we ſhall add as a Supplement to what we have formerly repeated on this important Head.

* *Vid.* Davenant's *Diſcourſe on Reſumptions*, *Pag.* 291, to 303, &c.

THE

THE Conſtitution of the Exchequer, *ſays he*, (we may rather call it the Conſtitution of the Kingdom) has contriv'd to put a great many Lets and Obſtructions in the way of deſigning Favourites and rapacious Followers of the Court, and that no Grant ſhall paſs from the King but upon ſtrict Inquiry and after mature Deliberation.

IN order to which the State thought it neceſſary to be at the Expence of ſeveral Great Officers, who ſhould be, as ſo many Centinels, continually watching that the King may not be ſurprized nor defrauded.

REGULARLY and according to the Laws of the Land, Grants from the Crown ought to make the following Steps.

THE Petition is firſt made to the King, in which (as we have noted before) the Petitioner ought to inſert the true and expreſs Value of the Thing demanded.

THE King refers this Petition to the *Treaſurer* of the *Exchequer*, now call'd *Lord-High-Treaſurer* of *England*, whoſe firſt Step is to have a Particular of the Thing petition'd for from the Auditor, if it lies before him, or from the King's Remembrancer, if it lies before him: This Care is taken that the State may not be deceiv'd in the Value of the Thing.

THE Petition is firſt referr'd to this High Officer, becauſe the Law preſumes that the whole State and Condition of the Revenue lies before him, that he knows

knows what Debts and Engagements the King has upon him, and whether the Expences of his Wars, and the other neceſſary Charges of his Government, are not ſuch, as, for the Peoples Eaſe, and by the Rules of Juſtice, ought for the preſent to reſtrain his Bounty. If the Thing to be granted be of great Value, if it cannot be given away without great Damage to the Crown, if by reaſon of ſuch Gift he is hindred from paying his juſt Debts, or from having wherewithal to defray the Charges of the Government, or to provide for the Kingdom's Defence; or if by this and other Gifts he muſt be driven, through the failing of his own Revenue, to lay heavy Burthens upon the People; 'tis the Duty of the Lord Treaſurer to repreſent the whole Matter honeſtly and impartially to the King, and to hinder the Grant from proceeding any further. And as a Tie upon him he takes the following Oath.

*YE ſhall ſwear, That well, and truly, ye ſhall ſerve the King our Soveraign Lord, and his People, in the Office of Treaſurer; and ye ſhall do Right to all manner of People, Poor and Rich, of ſuch Things as toucheth your Office; And that King's Treaſure truly ye ſhall keep and diſpend, and truly ye ſhall counſail the King, and his Counſel ye ſhall layn, and keep; And that ye ſhall neither know nor ſuffer the King's Hurt, nor his diſ-heriting, nor that the Rights of his Crown be diſtreſſed by any means, as far forth as ye may let; And if ye may not let it, ye ſhall make Knowledge thereof clearly and expreſly to the King, with your true Advice, and Counſel: And ye ſhall do and purchaſe the King's Profit in all that*

ye

*ye may reaſonably do, as God you help, and the Holy Evangeliſts.*

IT was hardly poſſible to deviſe a more binding Oath. And the Words *Ye ſhall well, and truly, ſerve the King our Sovereign Lord, and his People, in the Office of Treaſurer*, are an Evidence that our Forefathers took themſelves to have ſome kind of Intereſt in what was call'd the Crown-Revenue.

IF the Grant meets with no Objection at the *Treaſury*, the King ſigns a Warrant directed to the *Attorney* or *Sollicitor-General*, who is another Great Officer, impowering him to prepare a Bill containing ſuch a Grant. And if the Grant be of Money appropriated by Act of Parliament, or of Lands annex'd to the Crown by Act of Parliament, or if the Grant be any ways illegal or prejudicial to the Crown, it is the Attorney or Sollicitor-General's Duty to advertiſe thereof.

AFTER Mr. *Attorney* has paſs'd it, it goes to the *Signet*, the Cuſtody whereof is in the Secretary of State, who being a Miniſter in high Office is preſum'd by the Laws to be watchful for the King's Good, and to inquire into all Matters relating to the Weal Publick. He is preſum'd to be appriz'd of the Perſons Merits to whom the Grant is to be made, and likewiſe to underſtand either the Affluence or Want in the King's Coffers, and the general Condition of his Revenue. And having an Allowance for Intelligence, he is preſum'd to know the Diſcourſes and Opinions of the People, and how ſuch Grants are reliſh'd: If therefore the Perſon ſuing out the Grant has

has no Merit at all, or at leaſt no ſort of Pretenſion to ſo great a Reward, or if he knows the Publick to be preſs'd with Wants and Debts; or if he hears that the People murmur at the Taxes which Profuſion introduces, and clamour to ſee the Nation's Money waſted, by his Duty, as Privy Counſellor, and by his Oath, he is bound faithfully and plainly thereof to inform the King.

FROM the *Signet* it ſhould go to the *Privy Seal*, who is likewiſe another Great Officer; who being near the Perſon of the King, is preſum'd to know the Condition of the Kingdom; and therefore the Law has made him another Check. He takes this Oath:

*YE ſhall, as far forth as your Cunning and Diſcretion ſufficeth, truly, juſtly and evenly execute and exerciſe the Office of Keeper of the King's Privy Seal, to you by his Highneſs committed, not leaving or eſchewing ſo to do, for Affection, Love, Meed, Doubt, or Dread of any Perſon or Perſons*, &c.

SO that if the Lord Privy-Seal finds that through Corruption in other Offices, or that by Power, Importunity, or partial Favour, a Grant tending greatly to the publick Damage, and to the Diminution of his Prince's Revenue, has paſs'd ſo far as to his Office, he ought to ſtop it there, and is bound in Duty, and by his Oath, to lay the whole Matter before the King.

FROM the *Privy-Seal* it goes to the *Great-Seal*, in the Cuſtody of the *Lord Keeper*, or *Lord Chancellor of England*, who is accounted the Kingdom's, as well as the King's Officer, and there the Grant is com

pleated;

pleated; upon which ſcore, in the Eye of the Law, this Great Miniſter is moſt look'd upon. His Oath is the ſame with that of the Lord Treaſurer. He ſwears,

*WELL and Truly to ſerve the King and his People in the Office of Chancellor; truly to Counſel the King; not to ſuffer his Hurt or Diſheriting, nor that the Rights of the Crown be diſtreſs'd, by any Means, as far forth as he may let; And if he may not let it, he is to make it clearly and expreſly known to the King, with true Advice and Counſel; And, in all that he may, he is to do and purchaſe the King's Profit.*

SO that more than any other, as the higheſt Officer, and as the laſt Check, the Laws preſume him to conſult for the King's Good. Therefore if the Grant be exorbitant, if it be made to an undeſerving Perſon, if it notoriouſly ſurpaſſes the Merits of the Suitor, if it was obtain'd upon wrong Suggeſtions, if it occaſions Obloquy to the Government, or Diſcontent among the People, if the King's Debts are many and clamorous, if the Nation labours, at the ſame time as the Gift is made, under heavy Taxes; and if the Grant tends greatly to the Hurt and Impoveriſhment of the Crown (with all which Matters the Law preſumes ſo great a Miniſter in the State to be acquainted) he is bound in Duty and by his Oath not to fix the Great Seal to the ſaid Grant, but thereupon faithfully and impartially to adviſe the King: And Chancellors who have acted otherwiſe, and who, contrary to the Truſt of their Office, have ventur'd to paſs outragious Gifts, *Douns Outrageuſes*, as the Records call 'em, whereby the Crown has been impoveriſh'd,

poveriſh'd, have been heretofore queſtion'd, impeach'd and attainted in Parliament.

THESE were the ancient Steps in Paſſing Grants from the Crown, which were afterwards inforc'd by a poſitive Law in the Reign of *Henry* the Eighth, a Prince jealous of the Regal Authority.

OUR Author then proceeds to ſhew the Methods taken by the Courtiers of former Times to defeat this excellent Eſtabliſhment, and evade the Obligation of it.

THE Force of all theſe wholeſome Laws, *ſays he*, was enervated by Clauſes afterwards inſerted into the Letters Patents, viz. *Ex certa Scientia, Mero Motu, & Gratia Speciali. Ex certa Scientia* became neceſſary for the Courtiers to defeat the 1ſt of *Henry* IV. where 'tis enacted, *That the true and expreſs Value of the Thing to be granted, ſhall be inſerted in the Letters Patents; otherwiſe the Grant to be void.* So that theſe Words ſuppoſe the King to have certain Knowledge, in every Circumſtance, of the Thing he is to give away, which happens very rarely to be the Caſe.

*Ex Mero Motu* imports the Honour and Bounty of the King, who rewards the Patentee for Merit without his Suit. Theſe Words were introduced to obviate the 4th of *Henry* IV. whereby it was enacted, *That no Lands ſhould be given, but to ſuch as deſerv'd them; and if any made Demands without Deſert, he ſhould be puniſhed.*

AND

AND to the ſame Purpoſe were added the Words *Ex Gratia Speciali*; yet more to denote that the Gift proceeded merely from the King's Favour, and not at the Party's Sollicitation.

BUT beſides all this, becauſe antiently it ſeem'd a Fundamental, That Crown-Lands were not alienable, the Lawyers of Old Times, endeavour'd to ſecure and cover all by a Clauſe of *Non-Obſtante* to be inſerted in the Patents.

THESE Clauſes of *Non-Obſtante* were not known in our Original Conſtitution. *Matthew Paris* ſays, They grew rife in the Reign of *Henry III.* But they were more neceſſary after the 11th of *Henry IV.* when it was plainly and directly enacted, *That all Manner of Hereditaments which from thenceforward ſhould fall into the Crown, ſhould not be alienated, but remain to the King.* Which Law, the Author obſerves, appears to be ſupported by the Act *declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subjects*, which in theſe Words, ſeems to condemn the Doctrine of *Non Obſtantes*; *That the pretended Power of ſuſpending of Laws, or the Execution of Laws by Regal Authority, without Conſent of Parliament, is illegal.*

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LXVIII.

*——Fas eſt & ab hoſte doceri.* OVID.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24. 1723-4.

REVENGE was ever noted to be the Argument of a low and degenerate Mind; and as ſuch, contemn'd and deſpis'd by the Great and the Wiſe Men of former Ages. It was a Noble Sentence of *Plutarch*, That *he had rather it ſhould be ſaid, there never was a Man called* Plutarch, *than that others ſhould report he was prone to* Anger *and* Revenge. This Excellent Author has written a little Treatiſe on purpoſe to ſhew *how Men may profit by their Adverſaries*, and lays it down for a Rule, That the *Revilings* of an *Enemy* are more to be attended to, than the *Praiſes* of a *Friend*. We

 may

may reap great Advantages, *says he*, from being judg'd and cenſur'd by our Enemies. In this Caſe, *Antiſthenes* ſpake incomparably well, *That if a Man would lead a ſecure and unblameable Life, it was neceſſary, that he ſhould have either very ingenuous and honeſt Friends, or very bad Enemies*; becauſe the firſt, by their kind Admonitions, and the latter by their Invectives, would equally contribute to his Benefit.

WHAT this great Man ſays of his Times, may certainly, with equal Juſtice, be ſpoken of the Times in which we live. _____

AS Friendſhip, *ſays he*, is now grown almoſt Speechleſs, and hath left off that Freedom it did once uſe; when Flattery obtains, and Friendly Counſel is forced to hold its Tongue; We muſt expect to hear *Truth* only from the *Mouths of Enemies*: And he that hath no *Friend* to reprove him when he acts amiſs, muſt hear patiently the Rebukes of an *Enemy*, and thereby learn to amend the Errors of his Ways, conſidering ſeriouſly the *Object* at which theſe ſevere Cenſures aim, and not what the *Perſon* is who makes them. For as he who deſign'd the Death of *Prometheus* the *Theſſalian*, inſtead of giving the fatal Blow, only launch'd a Swelling which he had, that menac'd approaching Death, and thereby preſerved his Life: Juſt ſo may the harſh Reprehenſions of Enemies cure ſome *Diſtempers* of the *Mind*, that were before either not *known* or *neglected*, though theſe angry Speeches, perhaps, originally proceed from Ill-will. But many, *continues he*, when they are accuſed of a Crime, do not conſider whether they are *guilty* of the Matter al-

ledg'd

ledg'd against them, but are rather sollicitous whether the Accuser hath *any Thing more* to lay to their Charge. Like the *Combatants* in a *Match of Wrestling*, they take no Care to *wipe off* the *Dirt* that *sticks upon them*, but proceed to *besmear* themselves, and in their mutual Strugglings, still *mallow* into *more Dirt* and *Filthiness*. He further tells us,

THAT 'tis a Matter of greater Importance and Concernment to a Man, when he is lash'd by a Person he takes to be his Enemy, by living *Virtuously* to prevent and avert all Objections that may be made against his Life and Actions, than to scour the Spots out of his Cloaths when they are shewn him. For if, *says he*, any object to us Crimes of which we are even *innocent*, we ought to inquire into the *Causes* and *Reasons* of such *Accusations*, lest unawares we should commit those Offences that might justly be attributed to us.

WHY should we not, *adds he*, take an Enemy for our Tutor, who will instruct us *Gratis* in those Things we knew not before? When *Hiero* was upbraided by his Enemy for having a stinking Breath, he demanded of his Wife, *Why she had not acquainted him with it?* She innocently answer'd, *She thought all Men's Breath had that Smell.* For an *Enemy* sees and understands more in Matters relating to us, than our *Friends* do, because, in *Plato*'s Opinion, *Love is blind*, especially in discerning the Imperfections of the Object beloved.

THIS Great Author observes in the beginning of his Discourse, That thro' the long Succession of all Ages, down to his own Times, there scarce ever was a State or Kingdom, that hath not suffered under

*Envy*, *Hatred*, *Emulation*, the *Love of Strife*; fierce and unruly Paſſions, *ſays he*, of all others the moſt productive of *Enmity* and *Ill-will* among Men. Nay, *Familiarity* itſelf, will at laſt breed *Contempt*, and the very *Friendſhip* of Men doth frequently draw them into Quarrels that prove ſharp and ſometimes implacable. This the wiſe *Chilo* well underſtood, who hearing another aſſert, *That he had no Enemy*, ask'd him very pertinently, *Whether he had no Friend*? In my Judgment therefore, *adds he*, it is abſolutly neceſſary, that a Man, eſpecially if he ſit at the *Helm*, and be ingag'd to *ſteer the Government*, ſhould ſubſcribe to *Xenophon's* Opinion in this Caſe; who hath ſet it down as a Maxim of the greateſt Wiſdom, *For a Man to make the beſt Advantage he can of the Cenſures of the Perſon he takes to be his Adverſary*; and, *That every Man endow'd with common Senſe and Underſtanding may*, *if he pleaſe*, *make his Oppoſites very uſeful and profitable to him.*

EVIL hath this peculiar Quality in it, That it dreads an Enemy more than a Friend. For this Cauſe, *Naſica*, when ſome thought the *Roman* Affairs were for ever eſtabliſh'd in Peace and Safety, after they had deſtroy'd *Carthage* and inſlav'd *Greece*, declared, *That even then they were in the greateſt Danger of all*, *and moſt likely to be undone*, *becauſe there were none left whom they might ſtill fear.* To the ſame Purpoſe, *Onomademus*, a judicious and wiſe Man, being of the prevailing Side in a Civil Commotion at *Chios*, adviſ'd his Friends, *That they ſhould not quite deſtroy or drive away thoſe of the adverſe Party*, *for fear they ſhould begin to fall out among themſelves*, *as ſoon as their Enemies were all out of the Way.*

IT

IT is an eminent Piece of Humanity, *says he in another Place*, and a manifest Token of a Nature truly Generous, to put up the Affronts of an Enemy at that Time, when you have a fair Opportunity to revenge them. When *Cæsar* made an Edict, That the Statues of *Pompey*, which were tumbled down, should be rebuilt, and restored to their former Beauty and Magnificence, *Tully* tells him, That by setting up again *Pompey*'s Statues, he had erected one for himself, an everlasting Monument of Praise and Honour to After-Ages.

AGAIN, *says he*, Diligence, Honesty, Greatness of Mind, Humanity, and Beneficence are Beautiful and Glorious Virtues that are too pure and great to be touch'd by an ill Tongue; They stop the Mouths of Back-biters, and *command* them to be silent. We must therefore make it our Business to be *Better* than other Men, if we would vex them that hate us. Agreeable to which is the excellent Answer of *Diogenes* to one that ask'd him, *How he might be reveng'd of his Enemy? The only way*, says he, *to gall and fret him effectually, is, for your self to appear in Good and Honest Men.*

THIS is the Excellent Method prescrib'd to Great Men by *Plutarch*, to stop the Mouths of their Enemies: For 'tis impossible to imagine, That a Man shall be guilty of all the vile Enormities with which the most unbounded *Ambition* and *Avarice* can inspire him to act against his Country, and yet think to escape unreprov'd by *Brave* and *Free Spirits*, because he happens at that Time, by the *Sport* or *Capri-*

cio of Fortune, or his own *Artifices* or *Chicaneries*, to be vested with the Power to trample on the Necks of his Fellow-Subjects.

I SHALL take the Liberty to add but one or two Sentences more from the same celebrated Author. If our Enemies, *says he*, arrive at high Places in the Courts of Princes, and by *Flattery* or *Frauds*, by *Bribery* or *Gifts*, we should not be troubled at it, but rather pleas'd in comparing our *undisguised* and *honest Way of Living* with theirs that is quite contrary. For *Plato*, who was a competent Judge, was of Opinion, *That Virtue was a more valuable Treasure than all the Riches above, or all the Mines under the Earth.*

SO *Solon* believ'd, who was wont to say, *He would not exchange the Enjoyment of Virtue for the most popular Applauses in Theatres, the loftiest Seats among Eunuchs, Concubines and Noblemen. For nothing that is worth any one's Appetite, nothing that is handsome or becoming a Man, can proceed from that which is in it self Evil and Base.*

WERE the Grandees among the Moderns endow'd with the same Greatness of Soul, and if to promote the Good of Mankind was the predominant Passion with them, instead of expressing their Resentments against the Persons who censure their *Publick* or *Private Vices*, especially if this Liberty be taken with *Decency* and in a *Free Nation*, they would, by following the Advice of this Great Man, take the surest Method at once to *disappoint* their *Enemies*, to *confirm* their *Friends*, and to *establish* in *themselves* that Power which is too frequently the principal Aim of all their

Actions.

Actions. How eaſy is it for a *Great Man*, if he be an *Honeſt Man*, to make himſelf eſteem'd and belov'd! The Opportunities his Power puts into his Hands to oblige Thouſands, and the Means wherewith he is furniſh'd to do Good to Mankind, are ſo numerous and conſiderable, that one would be almoſt tempted to imagine, that it muſt proceed from a *Natural Propenſion* to *Wickedneſs*, if ſuch a one fail'd of gaining the Affections of the *Generality* of his Fellow-Subjects.

BUT the narrow contracted Views of moſt Publick Miniſters in former Times, have been the ſole Occaſion of their Miſcarriage in this Point. They were wont to conſider themſelves as the Miniſters of their Prince only, and that for their *own Sakes*; and as if they had no other Relation to the *People*, than for the Sake of what they drew from *their* Wealth and Contributions, to ſupport their own Grandeur and Luxury. Their whole Study was accordingly reſolved into the ſingle Point of endeavouring to ſupport themſelves at all Hazards, in the Power of anſwering theſe Views. And whenever we have had a Prince that has conſulted his own *Eaſe* and *Prerogative*, more than the *Good* of his *Subjects*, ſuch Perſons, inſtead of being faithful Miniſters and Watchmen for the Service of the State, have implicitely given themſelves up to the Will of their Monarch, and rather than hazard his Diſpleaſure and their Imployments, have flatter'd him into the moſt pernicious and deſtructive Meaſures, when perhaps, on proper Repreſentations, his Inclination and Intention meant nothing leſs: Which has been illuſtrated by many Inſtances in the Courſe of theſe Papers in divers precedent Reigns.

HOW greatly different was the Conduct of ſuch Miniſters, from what, nearer our own Times, is reported of the late Lord *Somers*. This Great Miniſter had the Honour to ſerve a *Wiſe* and *Gracious* Prince, who lov'd and valu'd him in the moſt diſtinguiſhing Manner. But when he perceiv'd that the Tide of Popular Prejudice ran ſtrong againſt him, ſo that he apprehended the Affairs of his Royal Maſter might be detrimented, and the Publick Service ſuffer by his Continuance in Power, he deſired his Sovereign to diſmiſs him from his great Imployments, and to ſuffer him to retire, at leaſt 'till the Prejudices conceived againſt him ſhould ſubſide: And thereby gave a Glorious Inſtance of a *Diſintereſted Zeal* for the Service of his *King* and *Country*, and an *Excellent Example* to all *ſucceeding* Stateſmen in the like Caſes; And as ſuch I take the Liberty to recommend it, if it ſhould ever be the Misfortune of any Great Man in future Times to fall under the like *Popular Odium*.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LXIX.

*Hic murus aheneus eſto,*
*Nil conſcire ſibi, nulla pallescere culpa.* HOR.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27. 1723-4.

AN equal an impartial Diſtribution of Juſtice, or a conſtant and perpetual Deſire of giving to every one their own, has ever been held, by the wiſer ſort, a ſure and certain Sign of a well-regulated State or Kingdom. Every Man's own Experience confirms this Truth, that we daily ſee Merchants and Traders, poſſeſs'd of great Wealth and Riches, ſteering their Courſe to ſuch Countries, where they find the *Subject* and his *Property* are beſt ſecur'd and defended. Upon theſe Grounds, many rich and wealthy Families have formerly ſettled in this Kingdom, whereby our Manufactures have been improv'd at Home, our Credit and Trade advanc'd Abroad.

BUT

BUT if ever the Caſe ſhould happen to alter, we ſhould ſuffer not only in the Opinion of Foreigners, but our own Traders and Citizens would make no difficulty to tell you, in Diſcourſe of our Courts of Judicature, that a Suit in Law or Equity is the greateſt Misfortune that can befall them, and ever ends in the Ruine and Deſtruction of them and their Families: Then the Fortune of our Country would be at Stake, and our flouriſhing Condition exchang'd for a *Babel* or a *Wilderneſs*. Such Reflections as theſe, muſt needs diſcourage rich Foreigners from coming to ſettle among us, and render the Subject in general very uneaſie (for, firſt or laſt, it muſt be every Man's Caſe) to find how dilatory and expenſive Law and Equity will become in Diſputes relating to Property. —

AN Act for the Amendment of the Law, &c. paſs'd ſome Years ſince; but it had no other Effect, than ſetting the Officers together by the Ears about their Fees; and the Perſon who drew that Act, knew very well, that the Diſorder and Grievances lay much deeper.

IN *Domitian*'s Time, *Julius Agricola* was appointed Governour in *Great Britain*: Upon his Arrival in theſe Parts, finding all things in Diſorder, he immediately reſolv'd upon a Regulation; and, to render it more effectual, and convince People that he was in Earneſt, being a Wiſe Man, he began, in the firſt Place, to make a thorough Reform in his own Family; which *Tacitus* highly commends, and ſays, is a Work of as great Difficulty to many, as to govern a Province. He never ſuffer'd his Freemen or Secretaries

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to intermeddle with Publick Affairs. Rules will be insignificant, unless the Judge, by his Practice and Authority, confirm and strengthen them. Those Rules will seem reasonable and easy to the Suitor, which the Judge himself observes and inforces.

OUR incomparable *Bacon*, in his Thoughts on *Judicature*, among the several Qualifications essential to a Judge, enumerates *Quickness of Conception*, and *Readiness of Dispatch*. And in his Speech from the Bench (which is truly Noble) he pronounces *Dispatch* to be the Life and Soul of Business. *Justice*, he says, *at best is bitter, but Delays make it soure.* An Author of vast Experience in Publick Affairs, has given his Opinion, That a *quick Condemnation* is more expedient for the Client, than a *favourable Judgment* after a *tedious Dependance*.

AGAIN, he gives us a lively Image to the same Purpose. *He who commences a Law-suit now-a-days*, says he, *does, as it were, plant a Palm-tree which he can never expect to gather the Fruit of.* And indeed, in a State where Suits are long and tedious, how can Neighbours ever live peaceably and in an amicable manner?

ANOTHER Virtue is *Patience*, or a Willingness to hear what the Council have to offer in behalf of their Clients: That the Audience, or Standers-by, as well as Advocates, may be satisfy'd in the Justice of the Sentence pronounc'd; and this Liberty or Freedom allow'd to the Bar, frequently sends the Client away fully possess'd of an Opinion, that the Council has

has offer'd all that was proper on his part, and that Right was against him.

THIS Virtue will always be thought absolutely neceſſary, unleſs the Practice of little Emiſſaries ariſe, by which there may happen a conſtant Demand of *Briefs* for the *Eaſe* and *Aſſiſtance* of the *Judge*. Such a Method, indeed, may make the Judge appear *inlightned*, and keep up his Character in the Eye of ſome People; but the Judicious, and they who have a clearer Inſight into Things, will ever think it dangerous (eſpecially conſidering the Unhappineſs of our preſent *Parties*) for 'tis not every body will allow the Judge to be impartial. Then it makes him impatient, in hearing a Council open, in a deliberate manner, what he knew before; tho' very often, what is offer'd may be very material. Nay, he may grow ſo uneaſy at length, as to ſwell into an arbitrary Air, and take to himſelf the whole Conduct of the Cauſe. *This Part of the Evidence ſhall not be read: This is little to the purpoſe: Prove ſuch a Point*: So that the Cauſe may take an unexpected Turn, to the great Damage of the Client, and Diſappointment of the Counſel who adviſ'd the Suit, and hop'd a Decree in favour of their Opinion; and which might be to the Gentlemen of the Bar, a Direction for the future in Caſes of the like Nature. For the Cauſe (to ſpeak with Weight and Authority) ought to be left to the Management of the Counſel, and no Interruption given, unleſs to inform and ſatisfy the Conſcience of the Court, and that too very ſeldom, or never, till the Counſel have done. To proceed in any other manner than what has been eſtabliſh'd by Length of Time and Cuſtom, and receiv'd the general Applauſe

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and Approbation of Mankind, would induce Men of Penetration and refin'd Understandings, to imagine something *more* is intended; and there never will be wanting some who may carry their Thoughts so far as to think (whatever they say) that such a Course is dangerous and destructive, and opens an Highway to *Corruption*.

A GENERAL *Severity* in a Judge has also been found very serviceable; for 'tis not only an infallible Proof of his own Integrity and Ability, but a real Service and Advantage to the poor Client. For *Fear* is an admirable Rein to curb and keep under a subtle crafty Counsel, or a greedy rapacious Officer.

IT is highly necessary for the Honour of a Court, that an Eye also be had to the unreasonable Demands of your *Poling Officers* and *Exactors of Fees*, who justify the common Resemblance of the Court of Justice, to the Bush, where-unto while the Sheep flies for Defence in bad Weather, he is sure to lose great part of his Fleece.

COMPLAINTS of this kind have been very common; and the exalting of some, and depressing of others, will make the Ballance vary to that Degree, that, to the Wonder and Amazement of all, some will be in the highest State and Grandeur, others in the lowest Condition; whole Families in Want; Virtue on Foot, and Merit in Rags. 'Tis a melancholy Consideration! —— From such a Management as this, what Inconveniencies and Disorders will not flow? The Course of the Court will be inverted; *Delay*, that consuming Quality of *Property*, will come in Fashion:

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The fair Practicer, who values himself and depends upon his Reputation, notwithstanding all his Endeavours, will lose his Time and disappoint his Clients: The dejected Officers lose their just Fees, and the Insolent seize and grasp at all without the least Colour or Pretence; while Counsel of modest Assurance, well-educated, and fraught with Morals and Learning, with Eyes fix'd on the Ground, will confess their Shame and Dislike, and they of a sullen troubled Impudence look up, and be ready to justify any thing.

A GOOD Judge is a good Minister, and a clear and distinct Description of the one, may very well be allow'd of, and pass current for a just Resemblance of the other: For the *Aim* and *Practice* of every Man is a clear Proof and Indication of what he is. To prefer the Publick Good to Private Interest: To neglect one's own Affairs: To be solely intent and bent on doing Good: To do as one would be done by: To render to every one his Due: To be content with a just Recompence: To affect the Good Will of all Men without Ostentation: And when the Clouds gather, and Storms beat, or Age approaches, to retreat and look back with Pleasure upon a well-spent Life, no ways sullied with Vice or Avarice; This is Earthly Happiness! This brings real Satisfaction and Content of Mind!

VIRTUOUS Men, in Wise Reigns, never pass neglected; for Riches and Honour are the Rewards due to an exalted Merit: And the repeated Favours of a Prince conferr'd on the Good, are some of the most effectual Means to discourage the Bad, and a sure

Sign

Sign that his Aims are Noble, and tend to make Virtue ſhine, and Vice bluſh.

FAME has celebrated an *Hales* and a *Finch*. Out of the great Regard I ſhall ever retain and pay to injured Merit and Virtue, I cannot here but do Juſtice to the Memory of that excellent Chancellor, and charge with Partiality a *Modern Hiſtorian*, who has under-wrote his Character, and repreſented him in faint and unbecoming Colours. His Extraction was noble, his Education liberal, his Bent lay to the Law. What Succeſs he had in that reſpect, appears by the eminent Stations he enjoy'd. While *Attorney*, he was no-ways honour'd by his Office, but was an Honour to it: For he never leſſen'd the Buſineſs and Reputation of *one Place*, to advance *to another*. He came always attended to the Hall ſuitable to his Dignity, and the greateſt Reſpect and Deference were ever paid him, for indeed he added Luſtre and Grace to the Place he fill'd. When he advanc'd to the Bench, he generouſly gave away all the Imployments under him, and oblig'd ſuch Officers as could bear it, to attend in their Coaches. He had no Pimps, Poets, and Buffoons to adminiſter to Pleaſure or Flattery. His Train was made up of Gentlemen of Figure, Men of Eſtates, Barriſters at Law, and ſuch as had Reputations in their Profeſſion, and were ſuitable and becoming ſo high a Station. His Decrees were pronounc'd with the greateſt Solemnity and Gravity: No Man's ever were in higher Eſteem, had more Weight, or carry greater Authority at this very Day than his do. He was a great *Refiner*, but never made uſe of *nice Diſtinctions* to prejudice *Truth*, or colour over what deſerves the worſt of Names. He frequent-

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ly declared, He sat there to do Justice, and as long as his Majesty was pleased to continue him on that Seat, he would do it by the Help of God, impartially to all; to the Officer as well as the Suitor. If the Officer exceeded his just Fees, or play'd Tricks with the Client, he would fine or punish him severely; at the same time, the Trouble and Attendance of the Officer (he thought) justly entitl'd him to his Fees. His Reprimands were mix'd with *Sweetness* and *Severity*, and so pointed as to *correct*, not *confound* the Counsel. He was indeed difficult of Access, but when once you had Admittance, you found nothing from him but what was Fair, Just, and Honourable; so that he had the Happiness to send most People away with Pleasure and Satisfaction. *Dispatch* was the Duty he was most intent upon, as a Matter that greatly concern'd the Honour of the Court: And upon a Debate relating to a Cause that had been upwards of Thirty Years in Court, he immediately appointed a Day for the Hearing of it, and declared, He would sit Five or Six Days together, but he would rid the Court of so great a Scandal and Ignominy. His Oratory was Manly, Strong and Just; *Demosthenes* and *Cicero* were his Favourite Authors, and his own Compositions are the best Proof that can be given of his admirable way of imitating those great and excellent Orators. I have heard the judicious Mr. *Lock*, in Discourse, say, That in his Opinion, in some of his Lordship's Speeches, the Language was the Correctest, and his Composition the most compleat he ever met with in the *English* Tongue. His Tables were not only handsome, but magnificent, and suitable to his Quality and Dignity. When, on

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a certain Occasion, they were reduc'd, and there was less Plenty and Splendor at his Board than usual; his Lordship could not forbear to say (but with the greatest Tenderness) that the Provision was not sufficient, and what was becoming his Rank and Office.

THE Four Thousand a Year that constantly attended the Seals for Hospitality, Port, and Dignity, after his Lordship had receiv'd it a considerable Time, he declin'd to accept any longer: declaring, That had he held the Seals but a *short time*, he would have thought himself justly intitled to it for *Life*, to have made Amends for the Time, Expence and Trouble he had been at to qualify himself for his Profession (to follow which he was render'd incapable by being made Keeper) but seeing his Majesty, through his great Goodness to him more than his own Merit and Desert, had been graciously pleased to continue the Seals to him longer than he could have expected, he could not, *in Conscience*, take it, being very sensible, that his Majesty at that Time might have need *of it in his own Family*. What can be greater than this Moderation in the highest Prosperity, which *Tacitus* calls, *Bounding one's Desires with Discretion*; and says, *is the most difficult Thing to attain to in Life*?

THAT he did not stoop to mean Complaisance to all at Court, is evident from the remarkable Story of the Earl of *Danby*. The Impeachment was violent, and carried on with the utmost Fury. When the King sent for the Ch——r. and commanded him to put the Seals to a Pardon ready prepar'd, the Ch——r remonstrated, with his usual Gravity, That it was contrary

to Law to Pardon any Subject while under an Impeachment. That it would be the Undoing of him and his Family; and therefore, he hop'd his Majesty would excuse him. The King, considering the Integrity of the Man, which was Clear, Entire and Uniform, call'd for the Seals, order'd the Officer to do his Duty, and afterwards return'd him back the Seals with this Compliment; *Take them, my Lord, I know not where to bestow them better.*

IN my solitary Hours, surveying this Great Man, I have often been induc'd to believe, he was so Good that he could not do Ill. His Motto was, *Nulla pallescere culpa*, and in my Conscience he answer'd it in every Respect, and made it good in the fullest Sense. One of his greatest Enemies (if such a Man could have Enemies) in his cooler Thoughts, when Prejudice was laid aside, and Envy began to slumber, has been heard to say, *That in Truth he must own the Lord Ch——r N——— was a Man of great Virtue and Piety.*

THERE may have been Persons on the Bench of more extensive Knowledge and greater Capacities, but as to the Duty and faithful Discharge of the Office, his Lordship never had a Superior, and I am afraid there will be but few Equals. His Morals were as chaste as his Writings, and they who have pretended to criticise the one, could never find the least Fault with the other. His Conversation was always with the greatest Deference to Decency and good Manners. He was ever on his Guard to parry the Thrusts of witty Courtiers, and Men of Pleasantry. A good Name, he thought, the most valuable Thing in Life,

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and that on which Virtue and Honour depended: For he that ſlights the one, can never have any Value for the other: 'Tis better to be Unborn, than Ill-bred; and out of Life, than Profligate and Abandon'd.

TO figure this Great and Inestimable Man aright, and to paint him in his true Colours, and with ſome Warmth of Imagination, but ſtill with the greateſt Submiſſion to ſtrict Juſtice; I would ſeat him on his *Throne* with a Ray of Glory about his Head, his *Ermines* without Spot or Bleminſh, his *Ballance* in his Right Hand, *Mercy* on his Left, *Splendor* and *Brightneſs* at his Feet, and his Tongue diſpenſing Truths, Goodneſs, Virtue and Juſtice to Mankind.

UPON the whole, to compleat his Character in a private Capacity: He was a kind Husband and tender Father, a true Friend and generous Maſter, Liberal and Compaſſionate to All. Thus accompliſh'd, and thus adorn'd, he ended his Days in the higheſt Station, full of Honour, Glory and Riches, to the great Grief and Concern of his King and Country, who were at once depriv'd of ſo great a Bleſſing. His Entrance upon the Stage of Buſineſs was with great Applauſe, and, what is very rare, his going off was with greater. If to purſue Wiſdom, to execute Juſtice, to intreat of Heaven a conſtant Serenity of Mind, and a Spirit to diſcern and judge uprightly of the Laws of God and Man, can merit Applauſe, doubtleſs the Memory of this Great Man will be preſerv'd with the Bleſſings and Praiſes of Poſterity: Works of *Marble* and *Braſs* are almoſt as frail and mortal as Men; but the Virtues of the Mind may be

properly called *one's own*, and cannot be taken away. By Admiration rather than temporary Praiſes, let us extol him, and, as far as Nature is capable, by our Imitation. Whatever we love or admire in *N*—— remains, and will continue in the Minds of Men as long as Time ſhall laſt. When many of the Greateſt, below the Dignity of Notice, are buried in Oblivion, *N*—— ſhall ſurvive in Fame.

THE

# THE TRUE BRITON.

## NUMB. LXX.

*O cives! cives! quærenda pecunia primum eſt;*
*Virtus poſt nummos.* ——— HOR.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31. 1723-4.

THERE is nothing to be ſo much lamented as the preſent great and viſible Decay of Publick Spirit. Every Age has produced too many Inſtances of this Nature; and the Publick has never been free from the Attempts of narrow-minded Men, who have made it their principal View to inrich themſelves at the Expence of their Country; But Examples of the Juſtice and Vengeance of injur'd Nations have been as frequent as ſuch Attempts, and in the Courſe of theſe Papers we have produced numberleſs Inſtances of this kind, which we need not now repeat.

*HORACE* complains, that in his Days, in the *Auguſtan* Age, when the *Roman* Empire was govern'd by a Wiſe and Glorious Prince, they felt a very great Decay both of Manners and Publick Spirit: And as the Age in which he lived was more wicked than the preceding, ſo, in all likelihood, the following would be ſtill worſe than that. This was accordingly fatally verified; for the *Romans* having inhib'd the Vices and Luxury of the Nations they had by means of thoſe very Vices conquer'd, were at laſt ſo effeminated and deprav'd, that they became an eaſy Prey to the barbarous Nations, which, like an Inundation, pour'd in upon them from all Quarters, and laid in Ruins that mighty Empire which had ſo long triumph'd over the known World.

AS for us of the preſent Times, we ſeem to be ſunk into the very Dregs of the *Iron Age*, and were it not for ſome *ſhining Examples* plac'd by the Wiſdom of the Crown in the *Meridian* of *Power*, that diſpenſe around them the benign Influences of *Generoſity*, *Candor*, *Affability*, *Diſintereſtedneſs*, *Contempt* of *empty Honours*, and in fine, all the Virtues that ever center'd in Great Miniſters, we ſhould hardly have remaining among us the leaſt Traces of *Publick Spirit*. The People in general (with great Concern I ſpeak it!) ſeem to be loſt to all Senſe of National Good; yea, ſo far abandon'd, that the bright Examples of our *Grandees*, have been hitherto inſufficient to reſtore to us even the *faint Idea* of our paſt Glory, and that Greatneſs of Soul, which was wont to adorn the *Britiſh* Nation, and which has ſo long preſerv'd us

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the only free People on Earth, while our Neighbours all around us, are groaning in Chains and Bondage.

WHAT miſerable Effects may in Time be produced from this Degeneracy, we cannot ſufficiently apprehend. We muſt not expect to be always bleſt with ſuch a Glorious Set of Miniſters. They will not be always ſtriving with the *narrow Views* and *Perverſeneſs* of an untoward Generation: Nor can it be expected that we ſhall be always ſo happy as to find, that the very Gentlemen who have it moſt in their Power to aggrandize themſelves, and their Poſterity, ſhou'd be the only Perſons in the Kingdom in whom *Self-Denyal*, and all the Great Virtues of Publick Life are conſpicuous.

WHAT have led me into theſe Reflections, are Two Letters I have received, the one partly of a Publick, the other of a more Private Concern, relating to the Attempts and Narrow Views of Private Subjects, which ſeem calculated to inrich themſelves at the Expence of the Publick.

THE firſt relates to a certain Patent, which the Repreſentatives of a whole Nation have thought fit to petition againſt in the ſtrongeſt manner. This is a tender Point, and as it lies before our Superiors in a proper manner, we ſhall not preſume to intermeddle with it at preſent, and our Friend who ſtiles himſelf THE ALCHYMIST, muſt therefore excuſe us for declining to inſert his Letter. And we ſhall diſmiſs the Subject for this Time, with the following Story taken *Verbatim* from *Dewnant* on Reſumptions, P. 402, not doubting but

ſome good Miniſter, like *Ximenes*, will riſe up, to check the Avarice of particular Men whereſoever it may be found.

" BEFORE the Greatneſs of Cardinal *Ximenes* was " fully eſtabliſh'd, ſeeing a very diſadvantageous " Farm of the Silks of *Granada* let for Ten Years, " by the Advice of Don *Manuel* the Treaſurer, to " which the King had conſented, and which was of- " fer'd at Council to be ſeal'd, he took the Charter, " and tore it publickly (of which the Pieces are kept " among the Records of *Arcala*, as a Memorial of " this Miniſter's Courage and Integrity) ſaying, *Salto*, " *Don* Manuel, *were you not my very good Friend*, " *the King ſhould cauſe your Head to be taken off*: " *Dare you make Grants ſo prejudicial to the State?* " Nor did *Philip* the Firſt, *adds my Author*, take it " ill, that his own and his Favourite's Doings were " thus revoked."

I MUST add, That I inſert this Piece of Hiſtory only as a Monument of the Integrity and Courage of that great Cardinal; for it cannot be a Parallel Caſe, becauſe the *Treaſurer of Spain* was concern'd in the former, whereas no other Perſon but a private and (before) unnoted Gentleman has any *apparent* Concern in the latter.

THE other Letter is dated from *Cadiz*, and ſigned, *The Engliſh Factory*: and as the Affair of which it treats, ſeems to be of Weight, and may be attended with affecting Conſequences to the *Britiſh* Trade and Commerce, we cannot refuſe to give it a Place in the

TRUE

TRUE BRITON, in the very Words of the Writer.

*Cadix, 6. January, 1724.*

*SIR,*

HEARING you've exerted your self, in repreſenting the Grievances of our Dear Country in *general*, we trouble you with a *particular* Hardſhip on Trade, hoping you'll think it worth your Notice.

THE *South-Sea Company*, by an Article in the laſt Peace with *Spain*, have Liberty to import Pieces of Eight and other Goods from the *South-Seas*, which the reſt of the *Engliſh* Subjects are excluded from; Upon this, the Gentlemen of the *Engliſh Factories* Here, in *Bilboa*, and Elſewhere, having conſiderable Sums of Money in Pieces of Eight there, directed our Correſpondents to Ship very conſiderable Sums for *London*. Accordingly they applyed to the Factors of the *South-Sea Company* for Leave to make uſe of their Names in ſhipping the ſaid Money; which they abſolutely refuſed, unleſs it were conſigned to the Sub-Governor of the *South-Sea Company*, or his Brother or Nephew. They were anſwer'd, Their Directions were to conſign the Money to Sir *J. W.* and others and that they cou'd not warrant acting contrary to their Orders; but that they'd adviſe their Friends of what they inſiſted on. Afterwards they applied to the *Spaniſh* Officers to connive at their ſhipping the Money; and having prevailed, the *South-Sea Company's Factors* wou'd not allow them to ſhip the Money under the beforementioned Condition;

all

all which they adviſing us of, we gave poſitive Directions rather to ſend our Money to *Spain*, than truſt a *South-Sea Director* with it.

I MUST obſerve to you, the Pieces of Eight being conſigned to a particular *South-Sea Director*, is of no more Advantage to the Company, than if it were conſigned to a mere Stranger, it only paying Freight in both Caſes (and there may be a Poſſibility of Defrauding the Company of the ſaid Benefit in the former Caſe) the Director or other Perſon it's conſigned to, having the Benefit of Half *per Cent.* Commiſſion, beſides the Uſe of the Money, which the Sub-Governor, in this Caſe, would engroſs to himſelf; This, we're told, is forbid as a *Monopoly* by the *Laws* of *England*.

THE greateſt Advantage *England* has by the *Spaniſh* Trade, ariſes from the vaſt Quantities of Silver ſent from thence, and kept in their Correſpondents Hands in *London*, thinking it more ſecure there, than any where elſe. Pieces of Eight being a Merchandize ſo eaſily diſpoſed of, are only to be conſigned to a Perſon very well known to the Owner, which, if we're not allowed, we'll continue our Money in *Spain*, rather than truſt them we don't know.

OBSERVE, the Money being conſigned to a Director or other particular Perſon, he only is accountable for it, from the Time it's landed, the Company being then diſcharged of it.

WE

WE beg you'll repreſent the fatal Conſequences that muſt inevitably attend private Perſons inverting the Law, and rendering Publick Faith ſubſervient to their inſatiable Avarice; for by it *England* loſes the Benefit of the vaſt Quantities of Silver, that would be imported, if we could gain Liberty to put our Money into ſuch Hands as we can truſt.

BY taking notice of this, in a proper manner, you'll infinitely oblige thoſe, who, upon all Occaſions, will acknowledge it.

*The* ENGLISH FACTORY.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LXXI.

*Impiger extremos currit mercator ad Indos,*
*Per mare pauperiem fugiens, per ſaxa, per ignes.* HOR.
*Læſa pudicitia eſt nullâ reparabilis arte.* OVID.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3. 1723-4.

THE Timing of the ſubſequent Piece obliges us to inſert the following Letter as it came to our Hands laſt *Saturday*, tho' it muſt be allow'd, That the Subject (as the Gentleman who wrote it obſerves) is capable of being more amply expatiated on, and we could wiſh it had been done by the ſame Hand.

*To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

THE Election for Sub-Governor of the *South-Sea Company* being appointed for *Monday* next, you can't do a more acceptable Piece of Service to your

your Country in general, or the Proprietors in particular, than to lay before them ſome Rules whereby to judge of the Qualifications of the Candidates for this Employment. 'Tis now become an Office of great Power, as well as Profit. The Money'd Companies have a conſiderable Influence upon the Affairs of the City, and if ever we ſhould have the Misfortune to have a corrupt Miniſtry, who ſhould make the Managers of this Company their Tools, they would have a large Share in Deſtroying the Liberties of the People.

THE preſent Sub-Governor got into the Office under great *Troubles and Difficulties*, as he himſelf expreſſes it, but in the Space of a very few Years he has had the Dexterity to raiſe himſelf to a Pitch of Wealth equal to many of his Predeceſſors. The Methods to do this may not appear ſo eaſy to thoſe who are unacquainted with their Managements. I ſhall mention but one out of a great many that might be named. The Company receive the Intereſt of their Fund Weekly, tho' the Dividends are paid but Half-yearly. The Proprietors have not a Shilling Benefit from theſe Payments, but it lies ready for the Managing Directors to lay it out in the Purchaſe of their Bonds at a Diſcompt, in buying Stock upon the Whiſper of a State-Secret, or any other private Uſe they pleaſe to make of it. The Bonds, amounting to ſeveral Millions, were, for a great while together, at between 15 and 20 *per Cent.* Diſcompt, and all of a ſudden were up again to near *Par*. The Receipts from the *Exchequer* at this Time were 3500 *l.* a Week. But the Sub-Governor and a few of his Creatures have greatly extended their Influence and

Profit

Profit by drawing the Company into Trade. The Commanders of their Ships, Super-cargoes, and other Officers, are appointed by the Directors alone, (for the Proprietors are not conſulted.) Theſe Officers would think themſelves but very ill paid for their Voyage, if they receive only the whole Profit the Company gain by it. No, they would immediately tell you, They don't go abroad to take the Air. This, Sir, is the faſhionable Term to let you into the Deſign they are ſent upon; and if one were to gueſs from the Coſtly Furniture and Magnificent Retinue theſe Gentry carry with them, their Proſpect muſt be very certain. Perhaps all this is intended for the Service of the Company; It may be proper to ſtrike an Awe into their Dealers, and to appear the Ambaſſadors of ſome Powerful Wealthy State, rather than the Under-Servants of *Merchants Trading to the South-Seas.*

BUT 'twere endleſs to mention the Inſtances in which the Proprietors may be wickedly abuſed and cheated. Nothing, Sir, that's ſaid here is intended to be publiſhed, but only to ſupply you with Hints to go upon. But the inſolent Behaviour of their Sub-Governor is never to be forgot. He was pleaſed to tell them very plainly, That he would obey no Orders he did not like, which was little leſs than pretending to overturn at once the Rights the Proprietors claim from their Charter. His Words are as follow.

*UPON this Occaſion we cannot avoid ſaying thus much; That altho' 'tis our general Duty to follow your Orders, in doing which we ſhall ever be* legally *juſtified*;

we

*we should never theleſs, in a* moral *Senſe, betray our Truſt, by implicitely putting in Execution Orders that really may be, or which* to our Judgment, *upon mature Deliberation, may* ſeem to be, *improper.*

ABOUT which Time a Letter was publiſh'd, and directed to that Gentleman, which animadverted on this part of his Speech, and among other Paſſages worthy Notice, has the following.

'*SIR*, You have choſen ſuch proper Words to 'convey your Sentiments in, that I can't think your 'Meaning would have been at all plainer, if you had 'ſaid, That a General Court has no Power to give 'any Orders that you and your Brethren don't like; 'or if they ſhould preſume to do ſo, you are bound 'in Conſcience to take no Notice of them. For, 'Sir, You have guarded againſt all poſſible Miſtake 'of your Meaning, by ſaying, you are bound not to 'execute, not ſuch Orders only *as really may be, but 'ſuch as to your Judgment ſhall ſeem to be, improper.*

'THE Paragraph, Sir, I have quoted from you, 'is the beſt Explanation of your Words and Actions, 'ever ſince you have had the Honour to fill that 'Chair.

'TILL now we have been at a loſs how to un'derſtand you in what you formerly told the Court; '*You* (the Directors) *were the Slaves of the Company.* 'And we know now by what Rule you conducted 'your ſelf, when in the ſame Court you declared 'with great Bravery, and even Defiance, *That let 'the Reſentment be what it would, or fall where it*

'*would,*

'*would, you would not put the previous Question* moved 'for in Form, by one you did not like; tho' you had 'before encouraged the putting a previous Question 'when moved for by a noble Lord, whom, by the 'way, you ſeem very willing to Copy after in Military 'Diſcipline.' And ſo he proceeds to enumerate many other Inſtances of the like Nature, for which I refer you to the Paper I ſend inclos'd.

THE Choice, Sir, of this Officer is a Matter of Importance. 'Twere a Jeſt to draw *Whig* and *Tory* into the Diſpute. The *Honeſt Men* of *Both Sides*, that have a Concern for their Property, or the Privileges they claim, ſhould unite in the Choice of a Sub-Governor that's moſt likely to preſerve both.

I am, Sir,

*Your Humble Servant,*

*W. A.*

WE ſhall preſent our Readers with the following Letter from a Lady, who ſeems to have but too much Reaſon to exclaim againſt a Diverſion that may be of the moſt pernicious Conſequence to Youth, and eſpecially of the Fair Sex; as it ſeems to have a natural Tendency to poiſon and debauch the Morals of the *Britiſh* Gentry, and throws down and levels all Orders and Diſtinctions, coupling the Nobleman with the Peaſant, the Dutcheſs with the Groom, the fine Ladies with the moſt abandon'd and profligate Rakes, and ſubjects the Greateſt to the Attacks of the Meaneſt Ruffian, who wants not Reſolution and Impudence. *Luxury* and *Intemperance* have ever been the Forerunner

manners of Slavery and Loss of Liberty in all Free States and Kingdoms. *Old Greece* and *Rome* afford abundant Instances of this fatal Truth; and if ever the *Masculine Genius* of this Noble *Island* comes to be enervated by the wretched *Effeminacies* of the *Continent*, we shall have no other Security than the Virtue of our Governors, (of which we may not always be so certain as at present) to prevent our falling under the Yoke of Absolute Power, and sharing the Condition, as well as Diversions, of the Neighbouring Nations. The Practices of the Generality of Mankind shew the World to be but ONE GREAT MASQUERADE, and when we are so deprav'd in *General*, we have little need of introducing Arts to help forward and propagate the Mischief to *Individuals*, especially of that Sex, whose only Ornaments and Defence, are *inviolable Modesty*, and *strict Virtue*, and who are inevitably ruin'd the Moment they forfeit their Reputation.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR*,

'TIS with Pleasure I find many of our Reverend Clergy, and the *whole Bench* of Bishops join to decry the *Masquerades*, and interpose their Authority to prevent the Ladies of *Great Britain*, being expos'd to the Attacks of their Footmen. I am not so ill-natur'd and uncharitable as to believe that all the Women who go to a *Masquerade*, are dishonest. Every one may see it once, as they would a *Monster*; but after their Curiosity is gratify'd, there must be other Pleasures in View to make it deserve the Name even of a *Diversion*. The Unseasonable

ſeaſonable Hours; The promiſcuous Company; The Unbounded Freedoms of the Place; The inſpiring Liquors, and tempting Viands, and the unbridled Liberties of Converſe, are ſtrange Temptations, and fit for very few who are not abandon'd to the Luxuries of a moſt degenerate Age, and cannot act a Part in the blackeſt and moſt criminal Parts of corrupted Life.

THE Ladies ſhould conſider, that 'tis nothing but *ſtrict Virtue*, and a *decent Reſervedneſs*, that keeps their Sex from falling into Contempt; and they ought not to lay aſide an Appearance that gains them Reſpect, and keeps in Awe Mankind, who are ever deſigning on their Virtue, to take up one, that expoſes them to the rough Addreſs of every ſordid Fellow.

THE Freedoms of a *Maſquerade* are but very indifferent Methods of initiating fine young Ladies into Converſation, when they have taken Leave of their Governeſſes, and find themſelves freed from thoſe ſtrict Rules of Virtue and Morality, which are too apt to ſit uneaſy on the Gay and the Youthful Part of the Sex, which therefore is more ſuſceptible of Impreſſions of a contrary Nature. Thus prepar'd, and falling into the Ribaldries of a *Maſquerade*, what Improvement may not be expected from the Minds of ductile Youth? *Exceſſive Liberties* naturally bring on *Exceſſive Reſtraints*; and 'twill be found proper in Time, perhaps, to immure the Sex as in *Turkey*, and other Parts, and to confine thoſe Bodies, whoſe Minds are too apt to be gadding after ſuch enormous Diverſions.

THE

THE Sex had ſo many Vanities and Foibles before, that *Celibacy* was never ſo common, nor *Matrimony* more deſpis'd; and in a while, the ſober Part of Mankind will unanimouſly diſclaim the Tie that gives them a Chance ſo unequal to their Merits, and expoſes their Beds to the Intrigues and Pollutions of abandon'd Rakes and Jilting Coquettes; and then the Sex may thank themſelves for becoming a Prey, both Perſons and Fortunes, for want of better Offers, to the harden'd Attempts of *Iriſh* Impudence, whoſe natural Talent is *Maſquerading* in every Part of Life. You will excuſe me this Warmth of Expreſſion, which is owing to the utter Ruin of a dear Kinſwoman, whoſe ample Fortunes and blooming Beauties are deſtroy'd and blaſted by ſucceſsful Villainy and corroding Diſeaſes, the Conſequences of an Intrigue that began *laſt Maſquerading Time*. If you pleaſe to inſert this Letter, you will oblige many of your Female Country Readers, and in particular,

*Your Humble Servant,*

VIOLETTE.

THE

# TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LXXII.

*——— Mutato nomine de te*
*Fabula narratur. ——— HOR.*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7. 1723-4.

## *To the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

IN Reading over Biſhop *Burnet's* Book, I took particular Notice of the Relation he gives of the Proceedings againſt the Earl of *Clarendon* in the Reign of King *Charles* II. and as thoſe Proceedings ſeem to be the Precedent on which the Bill for baniſhing the late Biſhop of *Rocheſter* was founded; and as his Account thereof, as well as of the Earl, and thoſe ingag'd againſt him, is ſomewhat remarkable, I beg Leave to give it you in the Biſhop's own Words.

THE

THE Earl of *CLARENDON* was bred to the Law: He was a good Chancellor, only a little too rough, but he was very impartial in the Administration of Justice: He had too much Levity in his Wit, and did not always observe the *Decorum* of his Post. He was high, and was apt to reject those who addressed themselves to him, with too much Contempt. He was indefatigable in Business, tho' the Gout did often disable him. He resolved not to stretch the Prerogative beyond what it was before the Wars, and would neither set aside the *Petition of Right*, nor endeavour to raise the Courts of the *Star Chamber*, or the *High Commission Court*, which could have been easily done, if he had set about it. He took care of all the Acts relating to Property, or the just Limitation of the Prerogative, such as the *Habeas Corpus Act*, &c. He relied upon his own Integrity; for when the Parliament were first set on to destroy him, some of his Friends went to him, and told him, many were at work to find out Matter of Accusation against him: That he best knew what could be brought against him with any Truth; for Falsehood was infinite, and could not be guessed at: They therefore desired he would trust some of them with what might break out; since, probably, nothing could lie concealed against so strict a Search. Upon that he told them, That if in Matters of Justice, or in any Negotiations Abroad, he had ever received a Farthing, he gave them leave to disown all Friendship for him. He had never taken any thing by virtue of his Office, but that which his Predecessors claimed as a Right. But now Hue-and-Cry were sent out against him; and all Persons who had heard him

ſay any thing that could bear an ill Conſtruction, were examined. Some thought they had Matters of great Weight againſt him; and when they were told, Theſe would not amount to High-Treaſon, they deſired to know, What would amount to it? When 23 *Articles* were brought againſt him, into the Houſe of Commons, the next Day he deſired his Son to acquaint the Houſe, That he hearing what Articles were brought againſt him, did, in order to the Diſpatch of the Buſineſs, deſire, that thoſe who knew beſt what their Evidence was, would ſingle out any one of the Articles that they thought could be beſt proved; and if they could prove that, he would ſubmit to the Cenſure due upon them all. But thoſe who had the Secret of this in their Hands refuſed it, becauſe they knew they could make nothing of it.

AT length a Bill was brought in baniſhing him the King's Dominions, under Pain of Treaſon. And it was made Treaſon to correſpond with him without Leave from the King. But this Act did not paſs without much Oppoſition. The Part the King had acted in this Matter came to be known, and was much cenſured, as there was juſt Cauſe for it. The Vehemence which he ſhewed in this whole Matter was imputed by many to very different Cauſes. Thoſe who knew him beſt, but eſteemed him leaſt, ſaid, That all the Indignation that appeared in him on this Head, was founded on no Reaſon at all; but was an Effect of that Eaſineſs, or rather Lazineſs of Nature, that made him comply with every Perſon that had the greateſt Credit with him. The Miſtreſs, and the whole Bed-Chamber were perpetually railing at him.

This

This, by a sort of Infection, possessed the King, who, without giving himself the Trouble of much thinking, did commonly go into any Thing that was at the present Time the easiest, without considering what might, at any other Time, follow on it.

IN the House of Commons, Sir THOMAS OSBORNE was the most furious Enemy the Earl had. He was at the Head of the Treasury many Years, and was thought to be a very corrupt Man, having been more than once expressly charged in Parliament with Bribery and Corruption. *Burnet* says of him, He was a Gentleman of *Yorkshire*, whose Estate was much sunk. He was a very plausible Speaker; but too copious, and could not easily make an End of his Discourse. He had opposed the Court much, and was one of Lord *Clarendon*'s bitterest Enemies. He gave himself great Liberties in Discourse, and did not seem to have any Regard to Truth, or so much as to the Appearances of it, and was an implacable Enemy. But he had a peculiar Way to make his Friends depend on him, and to believe he was true to them. He was a positive and undertaking Man; so he gave the King great Ease, by assuring him, All Things would go according to his Mind in the next Sessions of Parliament; and when his Hopes failed him, he had always some Excuse ready to put the Miscarriage upon; and by this means he got into the highest Degree of Confidence with the King, and maintain'd it the longest of any that ever serv'd him. ——He rais'd all his Creatures in the Church, and got all Men turned out of their Places that did not intirely depend on him. When he wanted to carry a Point in the House of Commons, he brought up all

his Creatures, the Aged and Infirm not excepted. Once thinking he had there a clear Majority, he got the King to ſend a Meſſage to the Houſe, deſiring an Additional Revenue of 300,000l. during Life. This ſet the Houſe all in a Flame; ſo the Thing was, upon one Debate, rejected, without a Diviſion. He was much cenſur'd for this Raſh Attempt, which diſcover'd the Deſigns of the Court too bare-fac'd; for it was then generally believed, that the Deſign was to keep up and model the Army now rais'd, 'till the Nation ſhould be brought under a Military Government; and the Opinion of this prevailed ſo, that he became the moſt hated Miniſter that had ever been about the King.

BENNET Earl of ARLINGTON, then One of the Principal Secretaries of State, was a faſt Friend of *Oſborne*'s, and purſued Lord *Clarendon* with the ſame Fury in the Houſe of Lords, as *Oſborne* had done in the Houſe of Commons. He was a Man that ſtuck at nothing, and was aſham'd of nothing. He was neither loved nor truſted by any Man, or any Side, and ſeemed to have no Regard to Common Decencies. He was withal, a dull, heavy, ſtiff, proud, poſitive, intractable, and moroſe Man, and might well be called an ENEMY TO HIS COUNTRY, from his Religion, and his Zeal for Arbitrary Power. *Burnet* principally takes Notice of him, as a Perſon who had the Management of the King's Miſtreſs, and that all the Earl of *Clarendon*'s Enemies came about him.

NEXT to theſe was the Earl of LAUDERDALE. He had been a Commander in ſome of the Armies that

were

were raiſed during the Civil Wars. He was a *Scotchman* by Birth; but whether his Original was *Iriſh* or *Scotch*, I have not been able to learn. *Burnet* ſays of him, that he was a very big Man, his Hair red, hanging oddly about him. His Tongue was too big for his Mouth, which made him bedew all that he talked to. His whole Manner was rough and boiſterous, and very unfit for a Court. He was a Man of a blundering Underſtanding, haughty beyond all Expreſſion, abject to thoſe he muſt ſtoop to, but imperious to all others: He had ſuch a Violence of Paſſion that carried him often to Fits like Madneſs, in which he had no Temper. If he took a Thing wrong, it was a vain Thing to ſtudy to convince him: That would rather provoke him to ſwear he would never be of another Mind. He was to be let alone, and perhaps he would have forgot what he had ſaid, and come about of his own accord. He was one of the coldeſt of Friends, and the violenteſt of Enemies. He at firſt ſeemed to deſpiſe Wealth, but he afterwards delivered himſelf up to Senſuality and Luxury, and by that Means he run into a vaſt Expence, and ſtuck at nothing that was neceſſary to ſupport it. His Behaviour was liker the Cruelty of an Inquiſition, than the Legality of Juſtice. With all this, he was a *Presbyterian*, and hated King *Charles* I. and his Party to his Death.

BUT the moſt remarkable was ANTHONY ASHLEY COOPER. He was Lord Chancellor in that Reign, and was the principal Fomenter of all the Troubles and Diſturbances that happened. *Burnet* ſays of him, that his Character was of a very extraordinary Compoſi-

poſition. He began to make a conſiderable Figure very early. Before he was Twenty, he came into the Houſe of Commons, and was of the King's Side; but afterwards he forſook that Side, and turned to the Parliament. He had a wonderful Faculty in ſpeaking to a popular Aſſembly, and could mix both the facetious and the ſerious Way of Arguing very agreeably. He had a particular Talent to make others truſt to his Judgment, and depend on it; and he brought over ſo many to a Submiſſion to his Opinion, that hardly any Man was equal to him in the Art of governing Parties, and of making himſelf the Head of them. He was, as to Religion, a *Deiſt* at beſt: He had a general Knowledge of the ſlight Parts of Learning, but underſtood little to the bottom; ſo he triumphed in a rambling way of Talking, but argued ſlightly when he was held cloſe to any Point: He had ſuch an extravagant Vanity in ſetting himſelf out, that it was very diſagreeable: His Strength lay in his Knowledge of *England*, and of all the conſiderable Men in it. He underſtood well the Size of their Underſtandings, and their Tempers; and he knew how to apply himſelf to them ſo dexterouſly, that tho' by his changing Sides ſo often it was very viſible how little he was to be depended on, yet he was to the laſt much truſted by all the diſcontented Party: He was not aſhamed to reckon up the many Turns he had made; and he valued himſelf on the doing it at the propereſt Seaſon, and in the beſt Manner. This he did with ſo much Vanity, and ſo little Diſcretion, that he loſt many by it. And his Reputation was at laſt run ſo low, that he could not have held much longer, had he not died in good Time, either for his Family, or for his Party: The

former

former would have been ruined, if he had not ſaved it by betraying the latter.

THE Duke of *BUCKINGHAM* and the Earl of *BRISTOL* were likewiſe the Earl's great Enemies; but the Account of them wou'd exceed the Limits of your Paper: I therefore beg Leave to refer it to another Opportunity.

*I am, Yours,*

J. G.

*THE* TRUE BRITON *having not been publiſhed for the* Monday *following, this Publick Notice was given thereof in the News-Papers for that Day.*

MONDAY, *February* 10. 1723-4.

THIS is to inform the Publick, That the *TRUE BRITON* which was to have been publiſhed this Day, for ſome particular Reaſons, will not come out 'till *Friday* next.

# THE TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LXXIII.

*Scilicet in vulgus manant exempla regentûm.*
CLAUD.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14. 1723-4.

## *To the Author of the* TRUE BRITON.

*SIR,*

I THINK myſelf intitled to no ſmall Share of your Favour; and I am perſuaded you will think ſo too, as ſoon as I ſhall have acquainted you with my Merits.

KNOW THEN, That beſides other good Qualities neceſſary to a TRUE BRITON, which in Decency I cannot mention myſelf, I have a moſt profound Veneration for the Laws of our Land: I

believe

believe I may say, the Greatest of any Man in the Kingdom. I am no Lawyer, never gain'd Six-pence by the Law, nor ever expect it; and yet the Perusal of them is my chief Entertainment: I can find in them not only *Justice* and *Wisdom*, but *Oratory*, *Wit* and *Humour*. Accordingly, I have given Orders to my Bookseller, the Moment a new Act comes out, to send it me; and I read it with the same Eagerness and Delight, with which Men of a different Taste read a fine new Play.

AS I often meet with many Words in an Act, that seem to have the same Signification, you cannot imagine how agreeably I puzzle myself to find out some *Distinction*: and when sometimes I do attain that Happiness, the Joy of a *Mathematician* cannot be more exquisite, when he has unravell'd a difficult *Problem*. I seldom lay the Act out of my Hands, 'till I am intirely Master of it; and after that, you may see me walk about my Room, repeating some of the finest Passages, with a Theatrical Tone and Gesture.

THESE are the *Publick Acts* that are so much in my Favour; not but that *Private Acts* have also their Charms; and *Bills of Naturalization*, or, *To impower any Man to sell his Estate*, or, *To change his Name*, are the Diversion of my looser Hours, when I would unbend my Thoughts from the great Attention with which I pore over those that are *Publick*.

I MAY safely say, No Study, no Library in the Land can shew so choice a Collection of *Votes* as I can. I have many Folio's of them, neatly Bound and Gilt,

Gilt, and inſcribed *BRITISH WISDOM.* —— Happy *Britannia!* Thou art a Beautiful, Fruitful Matron: The *Laws* are thy *Children*, thy *Ornament* and thy *Guard*. The *Houſe of Commons* is thy *Womb*, in which thy *Children* (according to the Phraſe of that Place) are *humbly conceiv'd*: But thy Offspring, like other People's, have different Tempers and Conſtitutions. Some are vigorous, and live long; others ſicken in their Infancy, and ſee not half their Days. Some are begot to live Seven Years: Others, as ſoon as they are born, either for ſome ugly Features they have, or ſome miſchievous Diſpoſition they ſhew, are wiſely knock'd on Head by their own Parents. Some live long, indeed, but ſleep all the Time, and are never heard of, 'till they are awaken'd for ſome particular Occaſion, and then they ſleep again. Some will make People Swear: Some have a Spite at one particular Perſon: Some are not brought forth without *great Struggles*: And others, tho' very good Children, have their Hands tied behind them, ſometimes for Six Months together, ſometimes for Twelve Months.

THUS I conſider the *Laws* in all the Views I poſſibly can, that I may the more admire them. But my Love to them does not reſt in them; for my Reſpect is alſo proportionably great towards thoſe that are intruſted with the Execution of them: I mean, His Majeſty's Worſhipful *Juſtices of the Peace*. There is not, in my Opinion, ſo ſolemn, ſo venerable a Creature under the Sun, as a *Juſtice*. Mark him! with what Deliberation he ſmoaks his Pipe, or drinks his Coffee! With what Compoſure of Countenance he receives the Homage of the Vulgar! With what *Promptneſs* and *Knowledge* he interprets an *obſcure*

*Point*

*Point* of *Law!* Such is a *ſingle* Country Juſtice; but when they are in *Seſſions*, when a *whole Bench* of them are aſſembled; their *united Aweſulneſs* is inexpreſſible: Nay, though a Man be in Himſelf contemptible; a Fellow of no Mark nor Likelihood; yet as ſoon as he is in the Commiſſion for the Peace, in my Eyes he becomes conſiderable: Thus a round Bit of Copper, in Diameter an Inch, is worthleſs, only fit to mend a Kettle; but let the Sovereign's Head be ſtamp'd on it, it ſtrait grows Current Coin throughout the Land, will purchaſe Half-a-penny Loaf of Bread, or get your Honour's Shooes Double Japann'd.

I FEAR, Sir, I ſhall grow tedious in the Deſcription of my *Self*; but there remains one Particular, I cannot forbear recounting. When I was young, I had a little Inclination for *Verſifying*; which, in deſpight of my Love for the Laws, has not yet forſaken me; ſo that I am ſometimes forced to humour it; but then I confine it to my Darling Subject: Therefore, whenever I meet with any Thing in an Act, which is very *new* or *uncommon*, I generally make a ſmall *Paraphraſe* upon it in *Verſe*; and this is both a Compliance to my Inclination, and an Help to my Memory. I beg Leave to preſent you with a Specimen; You will find it upon an Act that paſſed not many Seſſions ago.

WHereas the Females of this Land,
Uſurp unlimitted Command;
Such as no other Earthly Dame,
*Chriſtian* or *Pagan*, has the ſame;

Yet ſtill incroach, and ſtill aſpire,
To raiſe their mighty Empire higher;
And not content with Love Intrigues,
Againſt the Throne form Plots and Leagues;
And o'er their Tea, with ſawcy Chat,
Cenſure and blame Affairs of *State*:

Therefore, to humble the proud Fair,
Be it Enacted, That they Swear
To Love the King, to hate the *Pope*,
And cut off the *Pretender*'s Hope.
This ſhall controul the Female Pow'r,
And fix the *Britiſh* Crown ſecure.
Let Tyrants rule with Axe and Rod;
We ſhall be ſafe by Oaths, by G——

AS this odd Temper of mine can proceed only from a greater Share of Loyalty and Obedience than other People have, I will make no doubt of its being acceptable to you and your Readers.

*I am, SIR, Yours, &c.*

A. Z.

THIS is to inform the Publick, That the Author of the *TRUE BRITON* being determined to lay down this Work, a CONCLUSIVE PAPER to the ſame, will be publiſh'd on *Monday* next; Which, amongſt other Things, will contain ſome Remarks on *High-Treaſon* in General, both againſt the *King*, and againſt the *People*.

THE

THE

# TRUE BRITON.

NUMB. LXXIV.

*JAMQUE OPUS EXEGI.* OVID.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17. 1723-4.

I AM now come to put an End to the Paper, which was undertaken for the Publick Good, and out of a real Deſire to ſerve my Country, by laying ſeveral Matters before 'em, which otherwiſe might have eſcaped their Knowledge, and remained conceal'd.

I MUST, firſt, return my Thanks to thoſe Gentlemen who have ſo largely contributed to this Work, and who have entertain'd my Readers upon ſeveral Learned and Uſeful Topicks.

IN the ſecond Place, I muſt expreſs the grateful Senſe I have of the kind Manner in which this Work has been received by the Majority of the Kingdom, however ſeveral Paſſages in it have been decyphered by ſome few Perſons, who would caſt black and odious Colours on the moſt innocent Expreſſions.

I MUST not likewiſe forget to declare the Satisfaction I have had in conſidering the Stupidity of thoſe who have thought proper to attempt the aſperſing of me, and who, if they wrote by the Orders of Others, have flatter'd my Vanity, by making me conſiderable enough to be thought (by thoſe that employed 'em) a proper Object to be abuſed: And if they furniſh'd their Simplicity *Gratis*, then they have tormented their own Brain only to impoveriſh their Printers.

SINCE, then, I ſhall now take my Leave, I would earneſtly recommend to all TRUE BRITONS, a firm Union in the Intereſt of His preſent Majeſty and His Royal Family, as the only Means we have to make this a Flouriſhing and Happy Kingdom.

TREASON is a Word which has of late been ſo much employed, that it will not be improper to make ſome Remarks upon it, and to ſhew, that there is a *Species* of *Treaſon* of the blackeſt Dye, which ſeems to be forgotten: I mean, That againſt the *People*.

TO compaſs or imagine the Death of the King, or any Branch of the Royal Family, is very juſtly eſteemed

eſteemed the Higheſt Crime our Law knows: And, certainly, it is an Offence which ſhould be rank'd *next* to *that*, for any Perſon to contrive the Deſtruction of Liberty, and the overturning the Conſtitution of his Country by any Means whatſoever.

THIS Species of TREASON may be divided into ſeveral Branches; and each of them may equally merit the Deteſtation of all Honeſt Men.

IF a Man, intruſted by a King to counſel and adviſe him for the Security and Welfare of his Subjects, ſhould abuſe the Confidence his Majeſty repoſes in him, and direct all his Counſels to his private Advancement, and ſacrifice the Honour and Dignity of the Crown to his Avarice and Ambition: If he ſhould make the Publick Treaſure a Fund to ſupply his Private Extravagances: If he ſhould raiſe a Spirit of Diſaffection in the Minds of the People, by engroſſing more Favours from his King than a Subject ought to receive, and afterwards ſupport himſelf by Force and Violence, againſt the Juſtice and Inclination of the People: Would not ſuch a Man, like SEJANUS, be Guilty of a moſt Dangerous and Deſtructive Species of Treaſon?

IF the Leading Men of ſuch a Kingdom ſhould, with great Precipitation, run into every thing which ſhould be propoſed by the Court, without the leaſt Regard to their Country, and make their ready Compliance to the Will of an Adminiſtration, the only Aim of their Ambition: If the Prelates ſhould themſelves confeſs they acted by the Order of the Miniſters: Would not ſuch Men, at leaſt, deſerve to re-

ceive Pains and Penalties, when Juſtice and Truth ſhould prevail?

IF the Grandees of ſuch a Kingdom, whoſe Families for many Generations had been the Bulwarks that had defended the Conſtitution from former Attempts to overturn it, ſhould ſuffer themſelves to be made the Steps by which Upſtarts muſt aſcend into Power; Would not ſuch Men deſerve, at leaſt, to loſe their Titles and Dignities, when they degenerated from thoſe, who firſt received them as the Rewards of Honour and Merit?

IT is certain, that ſuch Men would deſerve Puniſhment as well as the States of *Denmark* did, when they made a voluntary Surrender of their Country's Freedom.

IN *Denmark*, the Reſolution was ſudden, and Liberty was ſacrific'd in a Day. But the Grandees of a Kingdom would be equally Guilty, who ſhould throw their Conſtitution into a Conſumption, and ſuffer it to ſink away by ſlow Degrees, when one of the ſtrongeſt Symptoms of the Diſtemper, is, The Security of the Patient.

THE People of *Denmark*, who, out of a ſudden Guſt of Paſſion, took the barbarous and wicked Reſolution of Inſlaving themſelves, are ſtill more eaſily to be excuſed, than thoſe who ſhould deliberately ſink into Tyranny, and give up their Liberties, Step by Step, nor mind the Remonſtrances of thoſe who warn them of their Wickedneſs.

AS

AS for Us of this Kingdom, our Anceſtors have delivered down to us, a Free and Independant Conſtitution; and it cannot be ſuppoſed, that the Sons of thoſe Men who died for the Preſervation of it, can ever be brought tamely to reſign thoſe Bleſſings which were won at the Expence of their Blood and Treaſure: And if hereafter, in ſome Degenerate Age, Men ſhould ariſe capable of ſuch Miſchiefs, their Forefathers Glory will illuſtrate their Corruption.

THERE is nothing can be a greater Security to a Government, than to ſee the Reins of Power placed in the Hands of Virtuous and Upright Men, who accept of Authority without the leaſt View of abuſing it; and who, when by their Diligence they have merited and received the Prince's Favour, their Gratitude inforcing their Allegiance, ſerve with Affection as well as Duty. Such Perſons will always be the Darlings of the People; and the Prince cannot but eſteem his Servants who ſeem rather averſe to *receive*, than forward to *extort* Favours from Him.

WE have had in this Kingdom many Inſtances of that Nature, and we have ſeen Perſons, who have ſerved in the Higheſt Stations, quit their Employments without increaſing their Patrimony. The Earl GODOLPHIN, who was, for ſuch a Tract of Time, at the Head of Affairs, is a remarkable Inſtance of Integrity: He took to himſelf no accumulated Fortune; He had the late Queen's Favour to an unbounded Degree; and there is no Queſtion, if he had imployed it with Partiality to himſelf, he might have purchaſed Eſtates, erected Palaces, adorned them

with the fineſt Paintings and Statues, and procured for himſelf and Family ſuch a Number of Reverſionary Grants as would have left Her Succeſſor very few in His Diſpoſal. His Gratitude to his Miſtreſs was ſuch, that he diſtributed her Royal Favours to thoſe who were inviolably attached to Her Intereſt, and who had deſerved them by their dutiful Behaviour to Her, and ſcorn'd to diſperſe her Bounties amongſt his own Creatures, as Bribes to attach them to his private Intereſt, in order to make himſelf ſo formidable, that whenever Her Majeſty ſhould incline to remove him from his Employments, he might be enabled, at Her own Expence, to ſupport himſelf againſt Her Meaſures, and diſtreſs Her Adminiſtration: He was too Wiſe, as well as too Honeſt a Man to plunder the Publick to inrich himſelf; for he could not but foreſee, that a *True Engliſh Spirit* would ſome time or other ſhine forth in the Parliament, who would be wanting to their Country if they did not reſtore to the Publick that which had been taken from it, and reſume all exorbitant Grants. Every Man in *England* having an equal Right to be loyal and dutiful to the Crown, he rightly judged it highly unreaſonable, that One Single Family ſhould Engroſs all the Royal Favours, and put the Crown out of a Capacity of rewarding others for Two Generations to come.

THE Earl of STANHOPE, who had paſſed through the greateſt Employments, is another Inſtance of this Glorious Diſintereſtedneſs; and by the Opinion which the World had framed of his Uncorrupt Views, he was not only grown Popular at Home, but was Perſonally eſteemed by all the Princes Abroad: And it is a memorable Saying of the late King

King of *Spain's* of the Earl of *Stanhope, That he had rather have Him for his Miniſter, than be Maſter of the Kingdom of* England. When the Circumſtances of Affairs at Home, too freſh in every Man's Memory to be repeated! induced His Majeſty to place him at the Head of the Treaſury, tho' he ſerved in that Capacity for ſome time, yet he left a ſmall Patrimony to his Family, ſcarce ſufficient to ſupport the Dignity of the Peerage. But he has left his Son the Glory of knowing that he is deſcended from a Father, who never was accuſed of Bribery and Corruption by any Reſolution of Parliament; and upon whoſe Memory the moſt inveterate of his Enemies, even thoſe who with the greateſt Malignity oppoſed His Majeſty's Meaſures when he was in Power, have not been able to caſt the leaſt Reflection. There was never Miniſter more famed for *Foreign* Intelligence; but he ſcorned to diſperſe, in every Company of the Town, Men, whoſe only Pretence to Favour, ſhould be giving Characters of Mankind, not ſuch as they deſerve, but ſuch as they thought it would pleaſe him beſt to have 'em bear.

THERE is nothing ſo dangerous to the Prince, or the Subject, as *Miſrepreſentation*; and it ſeems to have been the Motive on which an Honeſt and Able Miniſter of late has acted, when he refuſed to receive the bare Affirmation of that Wretch *Neyno*, and diſdain'd to give him Credit unleſs he would be upon Oath, where the Life, Fortune and Reputation of any Subject was at Stake.

THERE was an Inſtance of another Nature, which requires an equal Regard from Poſterity: I mean the Honour and Integrity of the Earl *COWPER*, to whoſe

Memory I have already paid the Tribute of a Tear, and ſhall now attempt to do him Juſtice. Whilſt he was in a Publick Station, to which he aſcended by that which ought to be the only Road to Power, Merit, he made even the *Severity* of *Juſtice* amiable, by his Affable Manner of pronouncing it, and his Kind Treatment of all thoſe who appeared before him. Tho' he came into Employment in an Age of Liſt which might have given Occaſion for Envy, yet there appear'd a General Satisfaction in the Wiſe Choice Her Majeſty had made, when ſhe eſtabliſhed Him to be the Mouth of Equity in this Kingdom.

HIS Impartiality is conſpicuous in nothing more than by the Acquieſcence that was generally made under his Determinations; which appears by the Scarcity of Appeals that came from the Court of *Chancery* when he preſided there. In the framing the Commiſſions of the Peace, he ſcorned to take part in the Private Quarrels of particular Families, or fill them with Creatures whoſe only Buſineſs it was to carry private Prejudices to the greateſt Heighth. — He took Care to intruſt that Great Power with Men of *Known* Loyalty and Affection to the Crown, as being the propereſt Diſtributers of Publick Juſtice.

WHEN he thought proper to reſign the Employment of Chancellor, the ſecond Time, the Reaſons of which Step may, ſome time or other, be made publick, he ſhew'd the World, that he was Maſter of that Great Quality of quitting Power whenever the Exerciſe of it grew diſagreeable to him: And he perſiſted, to the End of his Days, in a Brave and Strenuous Reſiſtance to Meaſures he did not like, and in an inviolable At-

Attachment to the preſent Eſtabliſhment, from which no Ill Uſage could force him.

He was the Beſt of Friends, and was as Conſtant in his Friendſhips as he was Cautious in contracting them; and ſhew'd the Pattern of an Impartial Judge, an Upright Unbiaſs'd Miniſter, a Great Orator, and a TRUE BRITON. If any Man would aſpire to the Greateſt Character in Life, let him tread in Earl COWPER's Steps, and then he will ſend his Name to Poſterity with all the Advantages that Virtue and Honour can fix upon it.

I SHALL not trouble my Readers any more; but hope the Majority of the Kingdom will believe, That I ſhall continue, to the End of my Life, in a ſteady Reſolution of inviolably purſuing the True Intereſt of my KING and my COUNTRY; and then I hope I ſhall merit the Character affix'd to the Head of this Paper.

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THE Author of this Paper was Yeſterday ſhewn a Paragraph in a Paper call'd the *Briton* of *Wedneſday* laſt; and the Scoundrel that wrote it may be aſſured, he ſhall be treated as ſuch infamous Raſcals as himſelf deſerve, when they take ſuch villainous Liberties.

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AS it has been impoſſible to inſert all the Letters and Advices, which we have, from time to time, received from our numerous Correſpondents, we can only, in this general Manner, return our Acknowledgments, and hope to be excus'd the Omiſſion. And whenever a Subject of PLAIN-DEALING and *Gallantry* appears in the World, many things that were incongruous to this Deſign, may obtain proper Place therein.

# HIS GRACE
THE
# Duke of *WHARTON*'s
# SPEECH
IN THE
# HOUSE *of* LORDS,
ON THE
Third Reading of the BILL to *Inflict Pains and Penalties on* FRANCIS *(late) Lord Biſhop of* ROCHESTER;
MAY *the* 15*th*, 1723.

*LONDON:*
Printed in the YEAR *MDCCXXIV.*

THE

# Duke of *Wharton's*

# SPEECH

IN THE

# Houſe *of* Lords, *&c.*

SOME Words which have fallen from the Reverend Prelate, who ſpoke laſt, have made it, in ſome Meaſure, neceſſary for me to trouble your Lordſhips with the Reaſons that induced me to differ with him in Opinion, and to give my Negative to the Bill now depending before us.

IF I don't miſunderſtand his Lordſhip (and if I ſhould miſtake his Meaning, I hope he will ſet me right) he was pleaſed to ſay, That Perſons without Doors would be apt to caſt different Reflections on the particular Behaviour of every Lord this Day; That thoſe who were for the paſſing of this Bill, would

would be accuſed of *Malice* and *Partiality*; And thoſe who were of contrary Sentiments, would be branded with *Diſaffection* to the preſent Happy Eſtabliſhment.

FOR my Part, I am far from thinking, that Conſiderations of this Nature will have the leaſt Weight with any of your Lordſhips; and am very certain, that every one, who gives his Vote on this important Occaſion, has attended, with the greateſt Care, to the Evidence that has been given at your Bar, which is the Foundation of this Day's Debate.

THE Proofs that have been brought to ſupport the Charge, and the Biſhop's Defence, are to be thoroughly conſidered; and when your Lordſhips proceed according to the Rules of Juſtice, you will not fear, nor value, any Conſequences which may attend the diſcharging of your Duty.

SO far I will venture to affirm, That the beſt Way to ſhew our Zeal to His Majeſty, and the preſent Government, is, To act, in all Caſes, both in our *Judicial* and *Legiſlative* Capacities, with that Honour and Impartiality, as ought to flouriſh in this Great Council of the Nation.

I COULD have wiſhed the Noble Lords who have given their Reaſons for the paſſing this extraordinary Law, would have entred into the particular Circumſtances of this Caſe, and conſidered it *ſingly* on its *own Merits*; But inſtead of ſpeaking on that Head, I cannot but take Notice, That they have wandred from that (which ought to have been their

only

*only* Conſideration) into Learned Diſcourſes on Bills of this Nature in General.

I SHALL not trouble this Houſe with any Arguments againſt Attainders. Many Lords, of greater Weight and Abilities than myſelf, have already ſpoke fully to this Point in the preceding Debates.

I SHALL only ſo far agree with the Reverend Prelate, who ſpoke before me, That it is proper, that ſuch a Power of puniſhing by Bill, ſhould be veſted in the Legiſlature to be exerciſed on extraordinary Emergencies: But then I muſt add, If ever that Power is abuſed; If ever it is employed to deſtroy innocent Perſons, it is evident, That the *Lives*, *Liberties*, and *Fortunes* of every Subject in *Britain*, are in the utmoſt Danger, and liable to be ſacrificed to the Fury of a *Party*.

IT has been admitted, That every Bill of *Pains* and *Penalties* is to ſtand upon its *own Bottom*; and that the paſſing of One Act of this Nature, is not to be brought as a Precedent for the ſupporting of Another, unleſs there be *convincing* Evidence to inforce *each* Caſe. And therefore the proper Conſideration now before us, is, Whether the Evidence offer'd againſt the Unfortunate Prelate is ſufficient to induce your Lordſhips to believe him Guilty of the heavy Crimes of which he ſtands accuſed?

MY LORDS, I ſhall take the Liberty of conſidering the whole Proofs that have been brought on this Occaſion, both by Way of *Charge*, *Defence*, *Reply*, and *Rejoynder*; and though I own myſelf very unequal to this Task, yet, ſince no other Lord, who could

could do it much better, has undertaken it, I think it my Duty, as a Peer, and as an *Engliſhman*, to lay it before your Lordſhips in the beſt Manner I am able.

THE Method I ſhall obſerve for the more clear Stating of the Caſe, ſhall be, To lay every particular Branch of Evidence before you, and to diſtinguiſh the ſeveral Parts of the Accuſation, and conſider them *ſeparately*, to avoid Confuſion, and to be the more exact in what I have to offer.

I HOPE I ſhall have your Lordſhips Indulgence for taking up ſo much of your Time as this will require; But I aſſure you, I ſhall endeavour to be as brief as the Nature of the Thing will admit, and will intrude on your Patience as little as poſſible.

I MUST alſo deſire your Lordſhips will pardon me, if I repeat ſeveral Arguments that have been uſed by the Council at the Bar; and if I even mention ſome Things which fell from me in the Debate on Mr. *Kelly*'s Bill, whoſe Caſe is very much interwoven with the preſent; ſo that it is almoſt impoſſible to avoid it.

BEFORE I go any further, I cannot but ſay, That were theſe Crimes plainly proved againſt the Biſhop of *Rocheſter*, his *ſacred Function* and *Station in the Church*, would be *Aggravations* of his Guilt: But, as this is certain on the one Hand, ſo on the other, your Lordſhips will require very *clear Demonſtration*, before you can think it poſſible for a Biſhop of the *Proteſtant Church* (who has ſignalized himſelf in Defence of the Reformation, and the only one of that

that Bench where he had lately the Honour of ſitting; that ever wrote in Favour of *Martin Luther*) to ingage into a Conſpiracy for introducing *Popery* and *Arbitrary Power* amongſt us.

MY LORDS, The Council for the Bill opened the Charge with acquainting the Houſe, That it was only to be ſupported by producing of *decyphered Letters* full of *Fictitious Names* and *Cant Words*; They were ſo very fair as to confeſs, they had not *one living Witneſs* that could charge the Biſhop with any thing, nor even ſo much as a Letter under his own Hand; Therefore, on the firſt View, this Manner of condemning, on ſuch kind of Evidence, ought to require our *utmoſt Caution*, leſt we ſhould eſtabliſh a Method, which our Enemies may hereafter take to deſtroy the Greateſt and moſt Innocent Subject in the Kingdom.

Mr. *WEARG* cited Two Caſes, which he would willingly have us receive as *Precedents* to juſtify the admitting of *Circumſtantial Evidence*: The one was, The Caſe of *Aſhton*, who was condemned on Circumſtances only; But, my Lords, This was before the *Treaſon-Act* was paſſed, which requires *Two poſitive* Witneſſes, and nothing could induce the Legiſlature to paſs that Law but a thorough Conviction of the Danger that might attend the admitting of any Proofs which were not *poſitive* or *certain*.

THE Second Caſe he cited, was that of *Harriſon*, for the Murther of Dr. *Clinch*, and the Learned Gentleman tells you, That it was the pulling out of a Handkerchief that led to the Diſcovery of that Mur-

der. It is very certain, *Circumſtances* may lead to the Diſcovery of Evidence; But muſt be well ſupported before they can be converted into *convincing Proofs.*

THE Firſt Piece of Evidence that was offered at the Bar, was, The *Extracts* of *Letters* from *Abroad*, which this Houſe ſeems, in ſome meaſure, to have declared to be immaterial, when they did not ſo much as deſire to ſee Copies of the *whole Letters*, nor the *Originals*, and even admitted one to be read which was *Anonymous:* But it will not be improper to obſerve, that through this whole Correſpondence the Biſhop of *Rocheſter* is not named. And therefore I cannot ſee why they took up our Time with reading Papers quite Foreign from this Caſe; eſpecially ſince Every-body allows there has been a Conſpiracy, which is the only Fact to be gathered from this Correſpondence.

THE next Point which was attempted to be proved, was, That Captain *Halſtead* went to fetch the late Duke of *Ormond*, and was at the Deanary with the Biſhop before he imbark'd; There are alſo Two Letters found in the Biſhop's Cloſe-ſtool from this Gentleman to his Lordſhip, which were read, and are only Appointments for Viſits, but mention nothing of this Deſign; and, I think, there was a Coachman, that proved *Halſtead* was an Hour with him ſome Days before he left *London.*

THIS, my Lords, was opened as a Matter of great Importance; But your Lordſhips muſt remember, that the ſuppoſed Deſign of *Halſtead*'s bringing the

the late Duke of *Ormond* into *England*, is only proved by *Hearſay*. One of the Crew belonging to the Ship in which he went, has depoſed, That it was the *Common Report* at *Bilboa*, that *Halſtead* came there on that Errand.

HOW far *Common Fame* is to prevail, I ſubmit: But if this *Hearſay* were *true*, is every Perſon who was an Hour with this Gentleman before his Departure, ſuppoſed to be privy to this Project? And what a ſtrain'd Conſtruction is it to inſinuate, The Biſhop of *Rocheſter* knew of his Intention, becauſe he received a Viſit from *Halſtead*, who was a Tenant under his Biſhoprick? And this is the more extraordinary, ſince it has not been ſo much as pretended, that any Correſpondence has paſſed between the Reverend Prelate and the late Duke.

THEY then produced Letters directed to one *Dunwild*, which were decyphered. And Mr. *Wills* was examined to prove, that they were rightly and juſtly explained.

MY LORDS, It very well deſerves your Lordſhips Conſideration, how far *this* kind of Evidence is to be admitted: It has appeared to your Lordſhips by the Oath of Mr. *Wills* himſelf, That it is an *Art* which depends upon *Conjecture*; for this Gentleman has confeſſed, That every Man is liable to a *Miſtake* in *this*, as well as in *other Sciences*; He tells you, that he and his *Brother Decypherer* varied in *One* or *Two* Inſtances; He allows, that the *Chaſms*, which they were forc'd to leave in thoſe Letters, might alter the Senſe of them. And, therefore, I cannot but think,

that an Accuſation grounded on *ſuch Proofs*, is uncertain and precarious.

THE Perſon who is the *Decypherer*, is not to be confuted, and what he ſays muſt be taken for granted, becauſe the Key cannot be produced with *Safety* to the *Publick*; and, conſequently (if his *Conjectures* be admitted to be *Evidence*) our *Lives* and *Fortunes* muſt depend on the *Skill* and *Honeſty* of *Decypherers*, who may with Safety impoſe on the *Legiſlature* when there are not Means of contradicting them for want of ſeeing their *Key*.

MY LORDS, In the Caſe of *Coleman*, the *Key* was Printed, as has been well obſerved by the Council at the Bar; and I am very much ſurprized, That Gentlemen of ſuch *Abilities* and *Integrity*, as the Members of the *Secret Committee* in another Place (who were ſo *exact* as to print the *French* Originals to the tranſlated Letters, that the World might ſee how *juſt* and *candid* the *Proſecutors* of the Plot were) did not, for the Satisfaction of the Publick, permit us to ſee the *Key* in *Print*, on the Truth of which depends ſuch a *Chain* of *Conſequences*.

I OWN myſelf intirely ignorant of this *Art*: But, as I ſhould be very far from condemning a Man on *my own Conjecture*, I ſhould much leſs do it on the *Conjectures* of *others*.

THE Greateſt *Certainty* Human Reaſon knows, is, A *Mathematical Demonſtration*, and were I brought to your Lordſhips Bar to be try'd upon a *Propoſition* of Sir *Iſaac Newton*'s, which he upon Oath ſhould ſwear

ſwear to be true; I would appeal to your Lordſhips, Whether I ſhould not be unjuſtly condemned, unleſs he *produced* his *Demonſtration*, that I might have the Liberty of inquiring into the Truth of it, from Men of *equal Skill*?

I CANNOT think any Man will allow Evidence of this Nature to be good; But if in this Caſe relating to the *decyphered Letters* to *Dumvil*, your Lordſhips *ſhould* admit it, there is nothing mentioned in them that can affect the Biſhop, neither is he at all nam'd in them, but they are only brought to prove the Conſpiracy in *general*.

THE Examinations of Mr. *Neyno* are the next Points that are laid before your Lordſhips; And, indeed, I muſt do the Gentlemen at the Bar the Juſtice of ſaying, That they forbore mentioning any thing of them, when they *opened* the Charge.

THEY were ſo ſenſible that ſuch Proofs could not have the leaſt Weight to affect the Biſhop, that tho' in the Caſe of Mr. *Kelly* they were produced againſt him as very Material to ſupport that Bill, yet they did not think proper to name them againſt the Biſhop; which I am thoroughly perſuaded, is owing to what appeared at your Bar by the Examination of Mr. *Bingley*, and the Univerſal Opinion which every Perſon ſeemed to have of the Villainy of Mr. *Neyno*'s Tranſactions.

MY LORDS, Theſe Examinations were never ſigned by the Perſon, neither was he ever examin'd to 'em upon Oath; So that, were they of Conſequence,

and he a Perſon of Credit, they could not not be admitted to affect any Perſon whatſoever, in any Court of Juſtice or Equity. I don't mean, That they could not be read according to the *ſtrict Rules* of *Weſtminſter-Hall*; which is admitted on all Sides they could not; But I dare affirm, That no Credit can be given to 'em on *any Account* whatſoever.

THE Perſon was cloſely confin'd, and conſequently in the Hands of the Government, ſo that he was at that Time under the greateſt Apprehenſions, which might, in ſome meaſure, prevent him from ſpeaking Truth with that Sincerity and Candour, of which every Perſon ought to be Maſter, when he is examin'd on Matters of ſuch nice Nature.

THOUGH theſe Papers were intirely given up by the Council for the Bill, yet the *Extract* of them was read, and they are the *viſible Foundation* of this Charge; and if they are inſignificant, the whole Accuſation falls to the Ground: For the *whole Proof* of the Biſhop's Dictating to Mr. *Kelly*, depends on Mr. *Neyno's bare Affirmation*.

THE whole of what *Neyno* ſays, or is ſuppoſed to ſay, is, That Mr. *Kelly* told him he wrote the Biſhop's Letters for him; Mr. *Kelly* denies it, and Mr. *Neyno* was ſo Conſcious that he had been guilty of many Crimes, that he endeavour'd to withdraw from Juſtice, and the Providence of God, it is ſaid, intercepted him.

MY LORDS, If you will conſider the *Improbabilities* of this Evidence, although it were upon Oath, and

and ſigned by him, it cannot be ſupported. He tells you, That he was intruſted to draw up Memorials to the Regent; yet none of thoſe have been produced, and yet it is apparent the *Copies* of them might, with Eaſe, have been obtained, if he had been as thoroughly preſſed to deliver them, as he was to declare he wrote them.

THESE Memorials, he ſays, were wrote by the Order of Mr. *Henry Watſon*, whom he takes to be the late Earl *Marſhall*; And I am certain your Lordſhips don't think that Fact material, when you came to a Reſolution, That the Biſhop of *Rocheſter* ſhould not be at Liberty to ask, If Enquiry was made of the ſaid *Neyno*, or if he gave any Satisfaction to the Lords of Council, touching that important Fact of *Watſon's*, whom he took to be Earl *Marſhall*, lying with him ſeveral Nights.

IT was very well obſerved by a Learned Gentleman at the Bar, That no-body can believe the late Earl *Marſhall* would have repoſed ſo great a Confidence in a Perſon, who was intirely a Stranger to him, and of ſuch little Note; and the *Jacobite* Party muſt be in a low Condition, when they make Uſe of ſuch a Creature to write Papers of that Importance.

THERE is ſo much *Improbability* in this and other Points, and ſo much *Contradiction* in ſeveral Parts of his Examinations, that they appear to me, and muſt to all reaſonable Men, as the *Dictates* of *Fear*, and not agreeable to *Truth*.

HE mentions, That the Reverend Prelate, (for ſuch I ſtill may call him) had *ſome Favours* offer'd him

by the *Court*; But that cannot be true, and muſt be added to the *reſt* of theſe *Abſurdities*.

BUT, my LORDS, what, in my Opinion, clears up all theſe Matters, and makes it impoſſible for me to give the leaſt Credit to this, or any other Part of the Charge, are, The ſeveral Teſtimonies of *Bingley*, *Skeen*, and *Stewart*.

I MUST obſerve to your Lordſhips, That the Two Firſt Perſons, *Bingley* and *Skeen*, are actually now in *ſeparate* Cuſtodies; and conſequently, could have no Communication one with another. The Third is at Liberty; but his Teſtimony is ſo thoroughly ſupported by Mr. *Gordon* and Mr. *Kynaſton*, that no Doubt can ariſe as to the *Veracity* of it.

THESE Gentlemen, who are in the Hands of the Government, are under *Hopes* and *Fears*, and therefore, it is certain, when they ſpeak a Language, which, perhaps, may be diſagreeable to thoſe on whom they at preſent chiefly depend, it muſt be the *Spirit of Truth* that prevails.

Mr. *BINGLEY* was before us in the Caſe of *Kelly*, and was alſo examin'd at the Bar of the Houſe of Commons, though not upon Oath; and though he has been more ſeverely treated, as he told your Lordſhips, and more ſtrictly confined ſince his firſt Examination, yet he has perſiſted in his Story; And though he was ſo long at your Bar, and ſo many Queſtions put to him, yet he never varied in any one Circumſtance, but appeared conſiſtent through the whole Courſe of his Behaviour.

I SHALL

I SHALL not detain your Lordſhips with Recapitulating his whole Evidence, for I did it very fully on a former Occaſion. But your Lordſhips will remember, he told you, *Neyno* abounded in Money, which *Neyno* ſaid (after he was apprehended at *Deal*) *An honourable Perſon* (and on this Occaſion, I hope, I may Name him) Mr. *Walpole, gave him:* and more particularly, he mentions 50 *l.* which *Neyno* ſaid he received the Night before he went to *France.*

*BINGLEY* told your Lordſhips, *That* Neyno *had aſſured him, he uſed to meet this Honourable Perſon in the Stable-Yard at* Chelſea; And, my LORDS, The Errand on which he was going to *France*, was To diſcover ſome Secrets relating to Cyphers, which he would have ingaged *Bingley* to have done for him; and particularly, to get them, if poſſible, out of Mr. *Kelly*; *Which*, he ſaid, *could he obtain, would be of great Advantage to him.*

THAT *Neyno* had declared to him, *He would be even with Mr.* Kelly, *before he was aware of it*, or Words to that Effect; and that Mr. *Kelly* always ſeem'd averſe to any Acquaintance with Mr. *Neyno*, of whom he entertained a mean Opinion.

THAT *Neyno*'s Father refuſed him Money, which makes it highly probable that his Poverty was the Occaſion of his Villainy; and that when he was taken at *Deal*, he had declared to him, *Mr.* Walpole *expected to find the Plot about him; and ſince Mr.* Walpole *could not, he muſt make one for him.*

*NEYNO*

*NEYNO* told *Bingley*, *That this Honourable Perſon had vowed Deſtruction to the Biſhop of* Rocheſter, *by ſaying, He would pull down the Pride of this Haughty Prelate*; which is ſufficient to convince your Lordſhips how little Regard ought to be had to the *Hearſay Evidence* of ſo *falſe* a *Wretch*.

Mr. *BINGLET* ſays, That Part of this Account he had given to the Lords of the Council: and I could have wiſhed, that *his* Examination (as well as *ſome others* to the ſame Purpoſe, which were taken about the ſame Time) had been laid before the Parliament.

Mr. *SKEEN*, who is alſo in Cuſtody, has depoſed, That he lay in the ſame Houſe with *Neyno*, and had ſome Converſations with him.

THAT *Neyno* had told him, *What he had ſaid of the Biſhop of* Rocheſter *was intirely falſe*. And,

*THAT Mr.* Walpole *had offer'd him a conſiderable Annuity to turn Evidence; and had given him Inſtructions before he was called into the Lords, what Queſtions would be ask'd him, and what Anſwers he ſhould make; and threatned him with* Newgate *if he would not comply*.

*SKEEN* ſays further, *That* Neyno *ſwore* (and I hope the Reverend Bench will, in ſuch a Caſe, permit me to repeat the Words) *By God, there were Two Plots; One of Mr.* Walpole's, *againſt the Proteſting Lords, and One of his, to bite Mr.* Walpole *of Money*; And

And this ſeems to be the *only Time*, that ever Mr. *Neyno* averr'd any Thing upon *Oath*.

TO convince the World, what a Creature this *Neyno* was, he tells *Steen* further, *That once at Lord* Townſhend's *Office, he had a great Inclination to have Stabb'd the Chancellor of the Exchequer*. He tells you, That *Neyno* had wrote a Paper to declare, *That all he had ſaid of Lord* Orrery *was falſe*.

MY LORDS, The next Witneſs was Mr. *Stewart*, who was unfortunately in Cuſtody when *Neyno* was brought to Town from *Deal*.

*STEWART* ſays, That he ſlept the ſecond Night with *Neyno*. That *Neyno* had told him *what he had ſaid of the Biſhop was Falſe; and that Mr.* Walpole *had offered him a great Sum of Money, if he would Swear to what he ſaid, and turn Evidence, which he declared he could not do.*

*THAT Mr.* Walpole *had taken him into another Room before he was Examined, and told him what Queſtions he would probably be aſked, and what Anſwers he ſhould give.*

HE ſays, That *Neyno* told him alſo, *That he had like to have kill'd Mr.* Walpole, *and ſo put an End to the Plot: And that Mr.* Walpole *had given him a Paper of Directions, which he was to Anſwer, in order to be a Witneſs againſt the Proteſting Lords.*

AS a Confirmation of his Teſtimony, *Stewart* ſays, *He told this to Mr.* Gordon *before Mr.* Neyno

*was*

*was drowned, and to Mr.* Kynaſton *before the Meeting of the Parliament.*

Mr. *GORDON* confirms this Part of his Evidence, and aſſures your Lordſhips, That he had heard it from *Stewart* before the Death of *Neyno*. And Mr. *Kynaſton*, a Gentleman of an undoubted Character, lately a Member of Parliament for *Shrewsbury*, has aſſured your Lordſhips, *That he was acquainted with* Stewart's *Account of* Neyno *before the Meeting of the Parliament*; And adds this Circumſtance, That when in the *Appendix* he ſaw thoſe Six Queſtions printed, he ſhew'd 'em to *Stewart*, who ſeem'd rejoiced, and ſaid, *You ſee, Sir, what I told you is true.*

SUCH *concurring* Teſtimonies from Perſons kept ſo *ſeparate*, and who are ſpeaking *againſt* their own *Private Intereſt*, muſt have the greateſt Weight, and muſt at leaſt prevent any Rational and Impartial Perſon from giving the leaſt Credit to the *bare Hearſay* of this *Philip Neyno*.

IF any Doubt could remain, as to the *Validity* of this *Teſtimony*, it is ſufficiently confirm'd by the Perſons brought to *diſprove* it.

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer *himſelf*, does not pretend to deny that *Neyno* told theſe Things, but only adds other Circumſtances to convince you of *Neyno*'s Villainy; and aſſures you, *That at the Time he was receiving Favours from him, he was thoroughly convinc'd he intended to cheat him, which was the Occaſion of his being apprehended.*

HE

HE own'd the Tranſactions between them before *Neyno* went to *France*; and particularly the Money mention'd by *Bingley*, which are Proofs that *Neyno* muſt have diſcloſed theſe Secrets, ſince they could not come from Mr. *Walpole*, and *He* and *Neyno* only were privy to them.

Mr. *WALPOLE* has ſhewn your Lordſhips the foul Draught of the Queſtions mention'd by *Stewart*; and when he denies that Part of *Neyno*'s Declaration relating to the Inſtructions given him before the Examinations, He owns, he was *twice alone* with him; *once*, the firſt Night of his being brought to Town, and the *ſecond* time, when he gave him the *Paper of Directions*, which might be Foundation enough for *Neyno* to frame ſo *Notorious a Falſhood*.

THE Witneſſes brought by the Counſel for the Bill, to the Character of Mr. *Bingley*, ſeem rather to *confirm* it than otherwiſe; and all agree, they never heard any Thing againſt his *Morality*. — They indeed have ſaid, he bore the Character of a *Jacobite*; and ſuffered for having diſperſed a Libel: But Mr. Baron *Gilbert*, who was his Judge when that Puniſhment was inflicted on him, has told your Lordſhips, That his *private Life* was not vilified at his Tryal, and that neither *Perjury* or *Forgery* was ever laid to his Door.

THOUGH the Puniſhment he ſuffered was the *Pillory*, yet it is the *Crime* and not the *Puniſhment*, that makes the *Ignominy*, and for this I can Appeal to the Learned Judges.

IN

IN order to deſtroy the Evidence of Mr. *Skeen*, they produced one *Pancier*, who tells you, That *Skeen* had revealed many Secrets to him relating to the Plot; and particularly of a Military Cheſt, which was collected to carry on theſe ſuppoſed Deſigns, and ſupport the *Jacobites*. —— But I preſume every Body who heard the Two Perſons at the Bar, could not but remark the *Steadineſs* with which Mr. *Skeen denied* theſe *Aſſeverations*, and the *Confuſion* with which the other *affirm'd* them.

Mr. *Pancier* ſeem'd to drop Something which intirely deſtroys any Credit that could be given to him; by ſaying, That he had owned to Mr. *Skeen*, That he was a Friend to this Adminiſtration; and yet he Sworn, That *after* ſuch a Declaration, *Skeen* had ſtill perſiſted in his Story, and revealed ſome Part of this Intelligence to him. How far this is probable, your Lordſhips are the beſt Judges.

Mr. *Pancier* goes further, and tells you, That Part of this Converſation happened in St. *James*'s Park, in the Preſence of one *Dufour*. This *Dufour* was in the Hands of the Government, and I can't conceive why we have never ſeen *him* or his *Depoſitions*, when it would have been ſo eaſy to have brought this *corroborating* Witneſs to Mr. *Pancier*'s Teſtimony.

I CAN'T but think, That the not producing this Man's Evidence, is a ſtrong Circumſtance to convince your Lordſhips he *did not* agree in the *ſame Story* with Mr. *Pancier*

THEY

THEY alſo produced *Skeen*'s Attainder for the *Preſton Rebellion*: But there have been *many Acts of Grace ſince*, ſo that he is capable of being an Evidence; and there has nothing appeared to traduce his Character as a Man of Morals.

IN order to ſhew your Lordſhips, That *Neyno* could not poſſibly make theſe Confeſſions to Mr. *Skeen* and Mr. *Stewart*, the Council for the Bill, maintain, That they will prove *Neyno* and the Priſoners were not together after the firſt Night.

THIS, my Lords, would be very Material, but I think it appears, by the Proofs brought to ſupport this Aſſertion, That they frequently have converſed one with another.

THE firſt Witneſs they call'd was Mr. *Crawford* the Meſſenger, in whoſe Houſe the Priſoners were in Cuſtody; and, my Lords, I can't but ſay, it ſeems very odd, they ſhould bring a Man to *Swear he had done his Duty*: He has told your Lordſhips, That Lord *Townſhend* had given him Orders, That *Neyno* ſhould be cloſe confined; and if, after that, it ſhould appear, That he had neglected ſuch Directions, there is no Queſtion but that he inſtantly, and *deſervedly*, would have been removed out of his Imployment.

THIS Meſſenger, in this Situation, tells you, That after the firſt Night, they never convers'd, *to the beſt of his Knowledge*. That Mr. *Skeen* call'd *Neyno* a *Rogue of an Informer*; and ſpoke in very hard

hard Terms of him; which I indeed think the Fellow well deſerv'd.

*CRAWFORD* ſays, That Mr. *Neyno* had ſome Paper, two Sheets of which he found miſſing. He likewiſe ſwears, That Mr. *Stewart* lay upon the Stairs; and owns he had at that Time Two Servant-Maids.

MRS. *Crawford*, his Mother, ſwears, That, to the *beſt of her Knowledge*, the Priſoners were never together: That ſhe kept the Keys of the Rooms herſelf, but uſed to ſend up the Maid, *Hannah Wright*, with the Dinner. —— Your Lordſhips will obſerve, that both this Woman and her Son, ſwear *To the beſt of their Knowledge only*, and are far from *poſitive Witneſſes*.

*HANNAH WRIGHT*, when ſhe was firſt call'd, ſpoke in the ſame Language with them, tho' ſhe afterwards recollected herſelf better.

WHEN the Biſhop came to Rejoin, *Francis Wood*, *Thomas Wood*, and Mr. *Ruſſel* ſeverally ſay, That this *Hannah Wright* had declared to them, That ſhe uſed to let the Priſoners converſe together whenever ſhe had an Opportunity, which was when Mr. *Crawford* and his Mother were out of the Way; and that ſhe uſed to ſtand upon the Stairs, and give Notice when any Perſon came, that they might retire into their ſeveral Rooms. And the other Maid, whoſe Name is *Chriſtian*, has depoſed, That *Hannah* gave the Key of *Neyno*'s Room to *Stewart*, and ſeveral Times deſired *Stewart* to go up to him, and that they

they were together an Hour or more. And when *Hannah* was call'd a ſecond Time, ſhe own'd ſhe was turn'd away for Suſpicion of having help'd *Neyno* in his *Eſcape*; That ſhe has left *Skeen*'s Door open, who lay near *Neyno*; and that there was a large Hole in *Neyno*'s Door through which they might converſe.

SHE ſaid, That *Neyno* gave her a Paper, which ſhe was to convey for him, but that it was taken out of her Boſom, and burnt by one of the Priſoners.

WHEN Mr. *Stewart* ſaid, That he ſat upon *Neyno*'s Bed the Second Night, and lay in the Garret where there was a Partition, but a Communication between 'em, *Hannah* ſaid, She could not be poſitive to that, but believes it true.

Mr. *CRAWFORD*, when he was call'd to that Point, according to his uſual Cuſtom, denies it *To the beſt of his Knowledge*.

YOUR Lordſhips will now judge, whether the greateſt Credit is to be given to the Belief of a *Meſſenger* and *his Mother*, who are ſwearing *that they did their Duty*; or, to the *poſitive Oaths* of *Skeen*, *Stewart*, *Gordon*, *Kynaſton*, *Francis Wood*, *Thomas Wood*, *Ruſſel* and *Chriſtian*, confirm'd by the Confeſſion of *Hannah Wright*, when ſhe came to be *Croſs Examin'd* and *Confronted*.

THIS, my Lords, concludes what has appear'd at the Bar, relating to Mr. *Neyno* and *his Tranſactions*; and I am pretty certain, every impartial Body muſt

agree with me, That ſo far from giving the leaſt Credit to what he ſays, there have appear'd ſuch Circumſtances in the Tranſactions which are now come to Light, that muſt make the greateſt Caution neceſſary, before we believe any other Part of the Charge.

YOUR Lordſhips will take Notice, That Mr. *Crawford* confeſſes Mr. *Neyno* had the Uſe of Paper, and found Two Sheets miſſing; and *Hannah Wright* owns ſhe had a Paper from him, which was burnt by one of the Priſoners. This, my Lords, undoubtedly was the Paper relating to Lord *Orrery*, mention'd by *Skeen* in his Evidence.

MY LORDS, I am now coming to the *great* and *only* Foundation remaining to ſupport this Bill: If *Neyno*'s *Hearſay*, is not to be believed, which is the Proof that was offer'd to ſhew, that Mr. *Kelly* was the Biſhop's Secretary, and uſed to write for him; and particularly, That the Biſhop directed Three Letters, which were wrote in *Kelly*'s Hand, and tranſmitted to *France* under Cover to Monſieur *Gordon le Fils*;

EVERY Body muſt agree, that unleſs the Writing of theſe Letters be clearly prov'd, the Biſhop ought to be acquitted; and when, hereafter, this great Affair comes to be canvaſs'd by Poſterity, it will ſtand or fall, as this Fact ſhall be ſtrongly made appear.

THEY firſt read *Plunket*'s Cypher; and Mr. *Vanradike* atteſts it to be his Hand-writing.

WHEN

WHEN this Piece of Evidence was offer'd, People were at a Loss to know what they intended to make of it, and little thought, that they should be drove to make use of *Jackson*, standing for the *Pretender* in that Cypher, to shew that the Letter directed to *Jackson* (one of the Three before mention'd, affirm'd to be dictated by the Bishop of *Rochester*, to Mr. *Kelly*) was to the *Pretender*; I shall take notice of this *extraordinary* Proceeding when I come to consider those Letters. I shall only say now, That were Mr. *Plunket*'s Correspondence to be regarded, the Plot is of a *very deep* Nature, for he has had the Impudence to insinuate the most ridiculous Aspersions against the *Greatest Men* among us.

THREE of his Letters were Read out of Cypher, in Two of which Mr. *Johnson* is named; that is Mr. *Kelly*; but neither Mr. *Kelly*, or the Bishop of *Rochester* are allowed Places in his Cypher, and, consequently, were not in an Association with him. *Johnson* is only spoke of by *Plunket*, when he is mentioning Domestick News, and in no other manner than might be in every *News-Letter* that went by the General Post.

MY LORDS, in order to shew that the Three Letters sent under Cover to Mr. *Gordon le Fils*, were Mr. *Kelly*'s Hand-writing, which they very justly thought was necessary to be made appear before they proved that the Bishop was concerned in them; they produced a Letter of the 20th of *August*, which a Clerk of the Post-Office swears was stopt at the General Post Office.

TO convince us this Letter is Mr. *Kelly*'s writing, *Hutchins* the Meſſenger ſays, *To the beſt of his Knowledge*, it is Mr. *Kelly*'s Hand; and at the ſame Time owns, he never ſaw him write till after his Commitment, and then he ſtood by him while he wrote Two Letters, one to Lord *Townſhend*, the other to Mr. *Delafaye*; Thoſe Letters were produced at the Bar, and therefore *every Lord* in the Houſe is as good a Judge of the Similitude as the *Meſſenger*, who has *lately* been *reſtored* into *Favour*; on what Account I cannot tell.

IF Mr. *Kelly*, during his Confinement, *counterfeited* and *diſguiſed* his Hand, then the Meſſenger's Evidence can't be of any Weight; and if he wrote as *uſual*, then every Perſon is *equally* capable of framing an Opinion of it who ſees the Three Letters.

THE next Witneſs, is *Malone*, who ſwears, She has ſeen him direct Letters, but can't tell how long ſince ſhe ſaw him write, nor how often.

THE Perſons who contradict this Evidence are ſo *poſitive*, ſo *clear*, and ſo *concurring* in their Teſtimony, that no Doubt can riſe upon it.

Mr. *Bingley*, when he was ſhewn this Letter, ſwears it is not like his Hand-writing.

Mr. *Brown*, a Peruke-Maker, well vers'd and acquainted with his Writing, when he was ſhewn the Letter of the 20th of *Auguſt*, and the Date of it hid by the Counſel for the Bill (ſo that he could not know what Paper it was before him) ſwears, *It is not his Hand-*

*Hand-writing*: When the Letter to *Delafaye* was produced, he declared, *That was his Hand-writing*: When another Paper was ſhewn, (I think, it was the Marriage-Articles) he ſaid, That was *more like* his Hand-writing than that of the 20th of *Auguſt*, but he did not believe it was wrote by him; and when they queſtion'd him upon the Letter to Lord *Townſhend*, he ſwore, *It was* Mr. *Kelly*'s *Hand-writing*.

Mr. *Pickering*, who had Occaſion to know Mr. *Kelly*'s Hand, having lent him ſome Money, and received ſeveral Notes and Letters from him during that Tranſaction, does agree with Mr. *Brown* in every *particular* and moſt *minute* Circumſtance; which is a clear and evident Proof, that this Letter of the 20th of *Auguſt* was not wrote by Mr. *Kelly*.

THE Difference, which they tell your Lordſhips, they obſerve between the *Cut* of the *Letters* in that of the 20th of *Auguſt* and the others, is, That one is *longer* and *ſtraiter*, the other *wider* and *ſhorter*, which is obvious to any Body that will look on both, and is a Confirmation of their Veracity.

THE Proſecutors of the Plot might have proved this better, and not have been driven to the Teſtimony of a *Meſſenger* to ſupport this great Foundation of their Charge. It is notorious what Search they have made for Evidence *of all kinds*; and as Mr. *Kelly* was Educated in a College, they might eaſily have found *credible Witneſſes* to that Point, if thoſe Letters had been wrote by him.

IN the Case of Similitude of Hands, when it has been the most *clearly* and *positively* proved, as on the Tryal of Colonel *Sidney*, it has been esteemed so Cruel, that a Man should be convicted on such kind of Evidence; and the Attainder of that unfortunate Gentleman was reversed for that Reason.

IN *Sidney*'s Tryal, his Bankers swore, They used to pay Bills drawn by him in the Hand-writing they were shewn, and no Persons could contradict them; and yet the Sentence against him was a great Blemish to that Reign. The Great Lord Chief Justice *Holt*, in the Case of *Crosby*, refused to admit it; and the Lord Chief-Baron *Bury*, on *Francia*'s Tryal, follow'd that Example.

AT present, give me leave to say, There is no Evidence that *it is* Mr. *Kelly*'s Hand, and there is positive Proof that *it is not*. —— Therefore, we who live under so *Equitable*, *Just*, and *Happy* a Government, can never Convict a Man, in *these Days* of *Liberty*, on such *insufficient* Conjectures.

THEY next produced the Three Letters, which, they would insinuate, were wrote by *Kelly*, and dictated by the Bishop, which were mention'd by me before, and which were sworn by the Clerks of the Post-Office, to have been stopt going to *France*.

THE Bishop desired to Examine them relating to these Letters being detain'd, and would fain have known who took them out of the Mail; this he thought was proper for him to demand, since he seem'd

seem'd to insinuate, That he question'd their ever having *been* in the Post-Office. But your Lordships would not suffer any Enquiry to be made on this Head, and Voted it inconsistent with the Publick Safety, and unnecessary for the Defence of the Prisoner, to permit any further Questions to be asked in relation to this important Affair.

THESE *Honest* Gentlemen, the Clerks of the Post-Office, have deposed further, That the Papers produced, are *True Copies* of the *Originals* detained by them; though, at the same Time, they confess, they *never examin'd* them after they had Copied them.

THEY positively swore further, That the Originals were of the *same Hand* with the Letter of the 20th of *August*, though they affirm this barely upon *Memory*, never having mark'd any Letter in order to know it again; and one of 'em declared upon Oath, That he did not believe there could be such an Imitation of *Kelly*'s Hand as could deceive him, though the whole House agrees, That Hands may be *Counterfeited* so as to deceive the Men that wrote them.

THEY own, they never compared Two Original Letters between the 24th of *August* and 20th of *April*, tho' they might have stopt a Letter one Post, without Prejudice to the Government, in order to be more certain in their Evidence.

THUS, my Lords, should this Bill pass, this Great Man must fall by the Dependance this House must have on the *Memory* of these *Clerks*.

Mr. *Lewis*, who has long ſerv'd in the Secretary's Office, tells us, That frequently Letters and Seals uſed to be Counterfeited; and, in a more particular manner, by one *Brocket*, who excelled ſo much in this Art, that he has cheated many Perſons, and has ſo far deceiv'd 'em, that they have not known *his Copy* from *their own Originals*.

WHEN theſe Letters, *thus atteſted*, came to be read, they are in *Cypher*; ſo that it muſt again depend on the *Honeſty* of a *Decypherer*, before they can poſſibly be made Treaſonable.

Mr. *Wills* declares, They were *truly Decyphered* according to *the beſt of his Judgment and Skill*; and more particularly, that the Number 1378, which is ſubſcribed to the Third Letter directed to *Jackſon*, ſtands for the Letter *R*. But when ſome Lords ask'd him a Queſtion, which perhaps, had he anſwered, might have proved him to be under a Miſtake; he refuſes to give an Anſwer, either in the Affirmative or Negative, for fear of *Revealing his Art*. Your Lordſhips thought proper to prevent any further Croſs-Examination of this Gentleman, by a Reſolution.

Mr *Wills* ſays, He ſhew'd theſe Letters decyphered to my Lord *Townſhend* before he communicated them to Mr. *Corbire*, who is a Clerk in the Secretary's Office, and then, he ſays, That Mr. *Corbire* and he agreed.

BEFORE theſe Letters can *yet* prejudice the Biſhop, the Cant Names in them, muſt be explain'd ac-

according to the Key which the Profecutors of the Plot have made; And in order to it, we muſt believe, That *Jackſon* ſtands for the *Pretender*, becauſe Mr. *Plunket* gave him that Title in *his Cypher*. Can there be a greater Abſurdity than to imagine a Perſon of the Biſhop of *Rocheſter*'s Capacity, ſhould borrow a Name of that Conſequence, from ſo *inſignificant* a Wretch as *Plunket*, who it does not appear ever ſaw him?

INDEED, the Council for the Bill did not read theſe Letters againſt the Biſhop, ſince they had no Proof of his Dictating of them, and they were only read on Account of the *general Conſpiracy*.

I MUST obſerve, It was a great *Artifice* of theſe Learned Gentlemen; Whenever there was a Piece of Evidence to which the Biſhop objected, they conſtantly pretended, they produc'd it to the *Plot in General*; for they knew it could not be admitted againſt the Reverend Prelate; But yet when they came to *ſum up*, they applied them to *this Particular Caſe*; which is not agreeable to that *Candour* that is neceſſary on ſuch Occaſions.

IF your Lordſhips ſhould be of Opinion, that *Kelly wrote 'em*; that they *were ſtopp'd* at the Poſt-Office; that they *were duly copyed*; that they *were truly deciphered*, and the *Cant Names explain'd*; yet *ſtill* this cannot affect the Biſhop, unleſs it be fix'd upon him *that he dictated* them: Two of them were ſign'd *Jones* and *Illington*, and to induce your Lordſhips to believe the Biſhop was Guilty, as they affirm'd, they endeavour to prove thoſe Names *muſt* denote *him*. And,

in

in Order to it, they read ſome Letters affirm'd in the ſame Manner (as before mention'd) by the *Clerks* of the *Poſt-Office*, to be his Hand-writing; But firſt they read a Cypher taken upon Mr. *Dennis Kelly*, and ſworn by the Meſſenger *Hutchins* to be wrote by *George Kelly*.

I CAN obſerve nothing upon this Cypher, but that the Biſhop of *Rocheſter* is not mention'd in it, which ſeems *very extraordinary*, and is *not a Proof* of the Reverend Prelate's being ingaged in a Conſpiracy.

THE Letters they read of Mr. *Kelly* are of no Moment, and are only calculated to ſix the Names of *Jones* and *Illington* upon the Biſhop.

THEY give an Account of his Lady's Death, the Biſhop's own Illneſs, his going to and from *Bromley*; and, in ſome of them, the Dog *Harlequin* is mentioned.

IT ſeems repugnant to Reaſon, that, in a Treaſonable Correſpondence of this Importance, a Gentleman ſhould venture his Life to give an Account of the State of *one* Perſon's *private Affair*, and entertain his Friends Abroad with *no other* Buſineſs in ſuch a Tract of Time.

IN the Letters directed to Mr. *Andrews* at the *Dog and Duck*, (which are proved to have been received by Mr. *Kelly*) *Jones* and *Illington* are not named, and thoſe in which we find them, were ſuch as paſs'd thro' the Poſt-Office, and were atteſted like thoſe under Cover to *Gordon le Fils*.

IT

IT is not likely, that in a Transaction of so *secret* a Nature, Mr. *Kelly* should take such Pains to give such a Description as might give the least Room for a *Suspicion* that the Bishop was concerned; much less to have mentioned *so many Particulars*, as it may be suggested, he has done, if there could be any Possibility of wresting the Meaning of *Jones* and *Illington*, and interpreting of them to mean the Bishop.

*William Wood*, the Bishop's Coachman, is brought to prove the particular Times of the Bishop's being in or out of Town, in order to shew, that they agree with the Times mentioned of *Jones* and *Illington* in the intercepted Correspondence; and he refreshes his Memory by a Book of *Memorandums*, which might have been destroyed, if it had been apprehended by the Bishop's Friends, that such Evidence could affect him.

WHAT they next attempt, was to shew, That the Dog brought over by Mr. *Kelly* from *France*, and which Mrs. *Barnes* swears, That he once told her was for the Bishop of *Rochester*, was a strong Circumstance to fix the Name of *Illington* on the Bishop.

MY LORDS, Mrs. *Barnes*, who is under the Custody of a Messenger, is the *only* Witness to this Point, and what she says, is only *Hearsay* from *Kelly*. She owns that *Kelly* never told her so but once, and that was when she thought to have kept it for herself: And, indeed, it might be barely an Excuse to prevent his parting with it, for he had promised to bring her such a Present before he went to *France*.

SHE

SHE owns, That to her Knowledge, the Biſhop never ſaw the Dog, nor ſent any Meſſage about it, which ſeems to be very extraordinary, that if this Preſent was of ſuch *great Conſequence*, he ſhould not have had Curioſity enough, at leaſt, to ſee it: An Affidavit was read from *Bermingham*, a Surgeon in *Paris*, which ſays, That he gave this Dog to Mr. *Kelly*, for Mrs. *Barnes*.

BEFORE I leave this Circumſtance of the *Dog*, it is proper to obſerve *another* great *Improbability*, which is, In a Letter wrote a few Days after the Death of the Biſhop's Lady, it is ſaid, Mr. *Elrington* was in *great Tribulation* for the Loſs of poor *Harlequin*; and can it be ſuppoſed, That at a Time when the Biſhop was in Affliction for the Death of his *Wife*, he ſhould *indecently* diſcover *ſo much Grief* for ſuch a *Trifle*?

I THINK this is ſufficient to convince any Perſon whatſoever, That this Correſpondence is of a very *extraordinary Nature*.

Mrs. *Barnes* has told your Lordſhips, That Mr. *Kelly* came from *France* the 11th of *April*.

MY LORDS, I am now come to the only Piece of Evidence that ſeems particularly levell'd at the Biſhop: Which is, The Proof that has been given of the Dictating thoſe Letters; and, unleſs this be *clearly* and *plainly* made appear, I cannot conceive that any Thing can be laid to this Prelate's Charge.

UN-

UNLESS it is evident, that the Biſhop did dictate as alledged, I cannot think any of your Lordſhips can vote him Guilty according to the Rules of Juſtice; for no Man is ſafe either in his *Life*, *Liberty* or *Fortune*, if he may be deprived of either on Account of a Correſpondence, in which it does not appear he was concerned. Though your Lordſhips ſhould ſo far credit the precarious Evidence, as to believe that *Jones* and *Wington* ſtood for the Biſhop of *Rochester*; yet, unleſs it is plain, that it was with *his Privity*, it is certainly impoſſible this Bill ſhould paſs; And if it ſhould, it will hereafter be in the Power of any Two Men, *one* at *Home*, and *one Abroad*, to ruin the moſt innocent Perſon, by entring, *without his Knowledge*, into a Correſpondence of this Nature.

IF the being *named* in Treaſonable Letters, be a Crime, though it does not appear it was *with the Privity* of ſuch Perſons, I will ſubmit to your Lordſhips, how far Men of the *greateſt Zeal* to the *preſent Eſtabliſhment*, are to be affected by Mr. *Plunket's Inſinuations*.

NO Man ought to ſuffer for the *Suggeſtions* of *another* Perſon, unleſs it appears he has given *great Foundation* for them. And in this Caſe, would it not be moſt extraordinary and moſt unjuſt, to puniſh this Reverend Prelate, for a Crime which there is no Proof he ever committed? I mean, the Dictating of theſe Letters. And if, on the other Hand, the unfortunate Circumſtances of his Affairs has furniſhed him with Means of ſhewing, beyond Contradiction, that he *could not* be concern'd in the Letters of the 20th of *April*;

*April*; That for a conſiderable Time before, he *could not* ſee Mr. *Kelly*; and that there never was an *Intimacy* between them. Then, my LORDS, I hope, every Man who gives his Vote for the *Rejecting* this Bill, has the ſtrongeſt Evidence of his Side to ſupport his Opinion; and need not be *afraid* or *aſhamed* to own it here, or any where elſe.

THIS Part of the Evidence being of great Conſequence, I muſt beg your Lordſhips Attention whilſt I recapitulate the Heads of it as clearly and diſtinctly as poſſibly I can.

THE Firſt Witneſs they call'd, was *Flower*, a Chairman, who ſwears, That he carried *Kelly* twice or thrice to the Deanary; but that the Biſhop was never at Home, and conſequently did not ſee him. His Partner ſwore, He had carried him, with *Flower*, one of thoſe Times.

THE next Perſon produced, was a Porter, one *Vanlear*, who depoſed, That he went about *Chriſtmas* was Twelve-Months, twice, with Meſſages from *Kelly* to the Biſhop; The laſt of which Times, he carried ſome *Beaver* Stockens; That the Biſhop ſent for him up Stairs, gave his Service to Mr. *Johnſon*, and thank'd him for his Preſent.

Mrs. *Kilburne*, at whoſe Houſe Mr. *Kelly* lodg'd, ſays, That once a Servant came from the Biſhop, to know how Mr. *Johnſon* did, and was ſorry he could not have his Company at Dinner.

*Williams*

*William Wood* the Bishop's Coachman, says, He once stopp'd in *Bury Street*, but does not know for what; and that the Bishop sent a Servant somewhere, who presently returned. And,

*Lloyd*, who keeps the *Star and Garter* in *Palace Yard*, has told us, That *Neyno* once came to his House, and told him, He staid for an ingenious Gentleman, who was gone to the Bishop of *Rochester*'s House.

THIS, my Lords, is all the Proof they offered of this *Intimacy*, from which they would infer, That the Bishop dictated these Letters, and is consequently Guilty of the Crimes laid to his Charge.

IF your Lordships consider what was produced on the other Side, I am sure you must agree there is no Foundation for this Assertion.

Mrs. *Kilburne* denies, *to the best of her Knowledge*, that the Bishop ever came to her House, or that his Coach ever stopp'd there, or ever was sent for *Kelly*.

THAT *Kelly* did not go out of Town, from the Time he came from *France*, till he was taken up, the 19th of *May*, and never lay out of her House *one* Night.

THIS, my Lords, was confirmed by her Maid *Anne Ellis*.

Mrs.

Mrs. *Barnes* ſays, ſhe never heard of any Meſſage from the Biſhop to *Kelly*, nor ever had any Converſation with him about the Biſhop.

*William Wood* the Coachman, who liv'd with the Biſhop Four Years, has declared, that the Biſhop of *Rocheſter* never ſent him with his Coach to *Bury-Street* to fetch any Perſon from thence; That there was no Stranger at *Bromley* for a Fortnight before his Lady died, which was the 26th of *April*; That nobody *could* come in a Coach, or on Horſe-back, but he muſt know it; That he never ſaw ſuch a Perſon as Mr. *Kelly*, 'till he was ſhewn him at the *Tower*; and, That the Biſhop went ill of the Gout to *Bromley* the 12th of *April*, and did not return to *London*, 'till the 7th of *May*.

*Malone*, Mrs. *Barnes*'s Servant, ſays, That ſhe never ſaw the Biſhop, or any of his Servants, with Mr. *Kelly*.

*Thomas Grant*, who has been the Biſhop's Servant 9 Years, has declared, That the Biſhop went to *Bromley* the 12th of *April* very ill of the Gout, and that no Stranger could come to him, from the Time he went to *Bromley*, 'till after his Wife's Death; That one or other of the Servants always ſat up with him; And that no Perſon could viſit him, but they muſt know it; for they were either in the ſame Room or the next Room to him; and that no Stranger, except Dr. *Aldrige* and the Apothecary, came near him. *Grant* ſays, That he was forc'd to go to Town to attend at the *Weſtminſter* Election of Scholars on the

21ſt

21st of *April*, but left *Beauchamp* there, who came down for that Purpose on the 18th.

*Beauchamp* and *Steen*, who were the Two Servants that attended with *Grant*, speak the same things.

*Susannah Harvey*, *Sarah Jones*, *Thomas Farnden*, *Elizabeth Higginson*, and all the Servants agree, That they never heard of any Person by the Name of *Kelly* or *Johnson* being with the Bishop. And,

Mrs. *Inglis*, who took the Name of the Bishop's Visitors for many Years, does not remember, that she ever heard of such a Person as *Kelly* or *Johnson*. And I doubt not, but that every Lord must allow, that it is not possible to have a more clear, a more strong, or legal Proof to a Negative, than this is.

I MUST observe to your Lordships, that most of these Servants have been in strict Custody, and severely used, particularly *Farnden*, and yet your Lordships see how unanimous they are in their Evidence; and their Testimony is so positive, that I cannot conceive any Person can suggest there was the least Intimacy between this Reverend Prelate and Mr. *Kelly*; and much less, that he could be with him to write the Letters that are dated the 19th of *April*.

Mr. *Reeves* did, indeed, so far agree, as to be of Opinion, that they might have been wrote the 21st of *April*, which was the Day *Kelly* came from *France*: But, my Lords, Mrs. *Barnes* has deposed, He went to Bed the Minute he came Home, and lay there for a considerable Time; Besides, it is improbable, that

Letters wrote the 11th, should not be sent 'till the 19th. But if any other Argument was necessary to confute this absurd Supposition, The Earl of *Sunderland*'s Death is mentioned in the Letter to *Chevers*, and that Noble Lord died the 19th, at which Time it has been prov'd, Mr. *Kelly* was not with the Bishop.

THE Bishop of *St. Asaph* did, at first, peremptorily contradict one Part of Mr. *Grant*'s Evidence, by saying, He had received a Letter from the Bishop of *Rochester* at the Time which *Grant* has sworn he was so ill of the Gout that he could not write.

HIS Lordship positively affirmed, That he received this Letter on *Saturday* the 22d of *April* in the Morning, and saw *Grant* in *London* between Twelve and Two: But when it was proved that *Grant* did not leave *Bromley* 'till the Evening of that Day, and that another Person officiated for him as Butler in the Dettary, by Reason of his Absence, then the Bishop seem'd to think himself under a *Mistake*, and allow'd it *might have been some time before.*

HIS Lordship own'd, He never received a Letter from the Bishop of *Rochester* before nor since, and therefore was a Stranger to his Hand.

I COULD have wish'd this Reverend Prelate had *recollected himself more fully*, before he had given his *Testimony* in a Matter of this *great Importance* to one of his Brethren.

THERE

THERE was another Witneſs examined, which was *Croſton* the Shoemaker, to prove, that *Talbot* (who was ſaid to have received the Three Letters directed to *Gordon le Fils*) was at that Time in *London*, when he was ſuppoſed to have been in *Bologn*. *Croſton* ſwears he ſaw him in Town the 29th of *April*, and prov'd it by his Book.

THERE was another Perſon call'd, whoſe Name was *Dormer*, that depoſed, *Gordon* own'd to him the receiving this Pacquet; But an *Affidavit* was produced from *Gordon*, in which he denies it. *Dormer*'s Evidence is only *Hear-ſay*, the other is *poſitive*.

MY LORDS, The Counſel for the Bill, produced ſome Papers which were taken in the Biſhop's Cuſtody when he was apprehended, and endeavour'd to draw very *ill-natur'd* and *forc'd* Conſtructions from them.

THE Firſt was a Letter from the Dutcheſs of *Ormond*, in which ſhe acquaints him, *That ſhe had ſomething to ſend him, which ſhe could not truſt to a better Hand*; or Words to that Effect. And *this* they would pretend to inſinuate, was *ſome treaſonable Papers*.

I APPEAL to all Mankind, Whether it is not very extraordinary to ſuppoſe, that the Biſhop ſhould be preſumed to convey a *Trayterous Correſpondence* through that Channel. *Every-body* knows the Friend-

ſhip which was between the Reverend Prelate and that Family, and it is not ſurprizing that this *unfortunate Lady* ſhould think him a proper Perſon to conſult, and intruſt with her own Affairs. Therefore I can't think, that theſe *general Expreſſions* can at all affect him.

THE next they read, is a Paper found, or pretended to be found, at the Deanary, ſubſcribed to *Dubois*, but without Date; In this the Perſon who writes it, ſays, He received a Letter by Mr. *Johnſon*, to which he return'd an Anſwer in his Hand.

THE *Secret Commitee*, at firſt, apprehended, that this was *received* by the Biſhop, and thus it paſs'd, 'till upon ſeizing a Letter wrote in the *Tower* by his Lordſhip, they found a *Similitude* in the *Seals*, which immediately *inlightned* them, and then it was preſently ſaid to have been *wrote* by the Biſhop.

THEY then wanted to fix this to be the Biſhop's *own* Hand-writing, and they could find no other Way of doing it, but pretending there was a *Similitude* between the *E*'s in this Letter, and thoſe which the Biſhop generally uſed. I believe it is the firſt Time that ever ſuch an Argument was brought to prove that the *whole Letter* has been wrote by a Perſon; much leſs was it ever pretended to be offered to a Court of Juſtice againſt any Priſoner whatſoever; But, I believe, there is no Man acquainted with the Biſhop's Hand, but ſees it is *not* wrote by him.

THEY

THEY would also affirm, That when in this Letter the Bishop is supposed to say, That he returned an Answer in Mr. *Johnson's Hand*, it must be *understood* to be his *Hand-writing*; which, I must confess, does not at all appear to be a *necessary* Conclusion; for he might deliver his Answer into Mr. *Johnson's* Hand, which, I think, is more natural to suppose than the other.

YOUR Lordships must judge, how improbable it is, that the Bishop should keep such a Letter by him, which he wrote himself; or that, when such Care is taken, as the Prosecutors of the Plot themselves say, for preventing any Person's discovering the Intimacy between Mr. *Kelly* and him, such a Secret should be trusted in *Writing*, and even *without a Cypher*. ——— The *Two Seals* which gave this Turn, are *Cicero's* Heads, which are very common, and are to be found every-where. They are one broke, the other whole, which must make it very difficult to judge of them; and it is allow'd, That, at best, it is but *precarious* Evidence.

IF Mr. *Neyno* speaks Truth, when he said, The Bishop had Notice of the Storm that threatned him, I am certain, that this Paper, if it could have been apprehended of Consequence, would have been destroyed; But, I believe, it was impossible for him, or any-body else, to think it should meet with such an Explanation.

THE next Letter they produced, which they seem'd to think material, was that which was seiz'd

on his Servant going to Mr. *Morice*: In this he ſays, That the Evidence of *Plunket*, and thoſe People, could not affect him; but as he does not mention Mr. *Kelly*, they would have it preſumed, that this is a Proof, that *Kelly* could have ſaid ſomething of him; But, I think, this muſt appear to be a very *ill-natur'd* Aſſertion.

YOUR Lordſhips conſider, he was then writing to his *Son-in-Law*; and therefore no great Accuracy was neceſſary.

IN another Place, he ſays, That if they impeach'd him, he ſhould remain in Priſon for ſome time; and this they would decypher to be an Implication of his Guilt. —— But, in my poor Opinion, it is the Reverſe; He ſeems to ſay, That if the Commons ſhould be indeed to ſend up an Impeachment againſt him, he was ſo ſatisfied of his own Innocence, and your Lordſhips Juſtice, that he thought the Confinement 'till his Tryal, would be the only Misfortune that could attend him. The Example of the Earl of *Oxford* was recent in his Memory, and might juſtly create in him a Fear of undergoing a long Impriſonment.

IT is objected, That he, in this Letter, makes no *Proteſtations* of his Innocence: But if you will conſider he writes to Mr. *Morice*, I believe every-body will agree, That ſuch Declarations were not *neceſſary*.

Mr. *Layer*'s Attainder was read; but it does not appear, that the Biſhop had any Correſpondence with him;

him; therefore I can't conceive why we were troubled with it.

MY LORDS, I have now gone through the *whole Evidence* that is brought to juſtify this extraordinary Proceeding, and muſt obſerve the Steps that have been taken to procure all the poſſible Means to work the Deſtruction of this Great Man.

YOU have ſeen his very Servants confined, who, it does not appear, were guilty of the *leaſt Glimpſe* of Treaſon.

*Lawſon*, a Baker of *Brumley*, who appeared at your Bar, has been employ'd to examine the Perſons in the Biſhop's Neighbourhood, in order to find the *leaſt Particular* that could amount to the *Shadow* of a *Proof*, and went ſo far as to offer *Wood* the Coachman, the *Wages* that were due to him, if he would have gone the Lengths that were required.

Mr. *Bingley* told us in the Caſe of *Kelly* (and as it has not been diſproved, it is to be taken for granted) that a Warrant was ſhewn by the Meſſenger, ſign'd by a Secretary of State, to carry him to *Newgate*, which he was told was unavoidable, unleſs he would own the Letter of the 20th of *Auguſt* to be Mr. *Kelly*'s Hand-writing; But it appeared the next Day, to be nothing but in order to terrify him.

Mr. *Kelly* himſelf has told your Lordſhips, That Mr. *Delafaye* offer'd him his own Terms, if he would have turn'd Evidence: And this was done to deſtroy the Biſhop of *Rocheſter*; or, to ſpeak in the Language mentioned at your Bar, *To pull down the Pride of this Haughty Prelate.*

YOUR Lordſhips may remember, That Mr. *Wearg* objects to the Biſhop's Servants, becauſe Two of them had *Employments*, as appears by his Lordſhip's own Letter: But, my Lords, when they were examined, they acquainted the Houſe, that it was upon reading of the *Report*, that they recollected the Biſhop's Circumſtances before the Death of his Wife. And if every Man who has a Place under the *Biſhop*, is not to be eſteemed a *Free Agent* when he is upon *Oath*, I hope it will be allowed, on the other Hand, That thoſe who have *Employments* under the *Government*, ought not to be admitted; then *all* the Witneſſes, that have been brought to ſupport the Bill, from the *Decypherer* to the *Meſſenger*, will be diſcredited, and the *whole Proſecution* muſt fall to the Ground.

MY LORDS, It has been a Hardſhip which has attended the Biſhop, that he has been forc'd to prove a *Negative*; and the Difficulty has been the *ſtronger* upon him, that your Lordſhips have not permitted Mr. *Kelly* to be examin'd, as was moved by a Learned Lord in my Eye; and if the Gentleman had *ſworn* what he ſo *ſolemnly affirmed* at your Bar, relating to this

this Affair, I can't conceive we could have had the leaſt Debate.

THE Noble Lords who appear the *moſt Zealous* in this Proſecution, were thoſe who *oppos'd* the *Examination* of Mr. *Kelly*, which, in my poor Opinion, is a *ſtrong* Argument, That if he had been brought before us, he would have *perſiſted* in his Declarations of the Biſhop's Innocence.

THE Reverend Prelate has deſired of any Lord in the Adminiſtration, and even the *Honourable Perſon* who appear'd at your Bar, to declare, Whether any *one ſingle Perſon* had charg'd him (on *their own* Knowledge) of being guilty of any treaſonable Practice. And it has appeared to the contrary; Therefore this whole Charge is founded upon the ſlight Circumſtances and improbable *Innuendo's* before mention'd.

ANOTHER Objection which was raiſed, is, That Mr. *Kelly* made Reſiſtance when he was ſeized, till he had burnt ſome of his Papers; But, my Lords, I don't ſee any Reaſon to lay this to the Charge of the Biſhop.

*KELLY* is to anſwer for *his own* Actions, and is unfortunately like to ſuffer for 'em; A Perſon of his Age, might have many Letters in his Cuſtody, which he did not care ſhould be ſeen, and yet of a *different* Nature from a Trayterous Correſpondence.

AFTER

AFTER *this* Evidence is conſidered, I cannot think your Lordſhips will eſtabliſh ſuch a Precedent, which hereafter may be employ'd to ruin the Greateſt amongſt you; and if ever hereafter Pains and Penalties are unjuſtly inflicted on any Perſon, Poſterity will derive the Original of ſuch Bills from the Proceedings of this Parliament; and what Opinion will be framed of us, ſhould this be paſſed into a Law, I ſubmit to every impartial Perſon.

IT muſt be left to your Lordſhips Conſideration, Which will be of moſt fatal Conſequence to the Publick, The leaving this Precedent (of Condemning on ſuch kind of Evidence) like a Sword which your Enemies may take up when they pleaſe, or the Baniſhing the Biſhop of *Rochester*, in the *Evening* of his Days, who alone could do, in his *ſingle Perſon*, no Prejudice to the Conſtitution: If he were inclin'd to overturn it, as his Enemies ſuggeſt, he is in a better Situation *Abroad*, than at *Home*, to execute that Deſign, and direct the Counſels of the Diſaffected. The Ruin of *one Man*, will not heal the Wound, that the Paſſing of this Bill ſeems to make in the Government of this Kingdom.

IT has been ſaid in the Debate, That the Biſhop ought to have made Proteſtations of his *Zeal* for *His Majeſty* and *His Family*; But, I think he took the moſt ready Way of Performing his Duty, when he ſhew'd himſelf Innocent of the Crimes laid to his Charge.

IF

IF he had made Uſe of any Expreſſions, which thoſe Lords blame him for omitting, the ſame *good Nature* would have call'd it *Hypocriſy*; and thoſe who are diſpleas'd with his *Silence*, would have accuſed him of *Inſincerity*.

MY LORDS, This Bill ſeems as irregular in the Puniſhments it inflicts, as it is in its Foundation, and carries with it an unnatural Degree of Hardſhip.

IT is Felony for his *Children* to correſpond with him: And in this Circumſtance, it is different from the only Bill that carries with it the leaſt Reſemblance of this: I mean, That for the Baniſhment of the Earl of *Clarendon*.

THE Earl had flown from the Proſecution, and retired beyond Sea. The Charges againſt him were principally, *For adviſing a Standing Army*; and another Article exhibited was, *That he had adviſed and procured divers of his Majeſty's Subjects to be impriſon'd againſt Law, in remote Iſlands, Garriſons, and other Places, thereby to prevent the Benefit of the Law, and to produce Precedents for the Impriſoning any other of his Majeſty's Subjects in like manner.*

THE 7th Article againſt him, was, *That he had, in a ſhort Time, gain'd to himſelf a greater Eſtate than can be imagin'd to be gain'd lawfully in ſo ſhort a Time; And, contrary to his Oath, he hath procured ſeveral Grants under the Great Seal from his Majeſty, for himſelf and his Relations, of ſeveral of his Majeſty's Lands,*

*Here-*

*Hereditaments and Leaſes, to the Diſprofit of his Majeſty.*

THERE need not have been any Witneſſes of theſe Crimes, for they were apparent; and every-body knew he was *Prime Miniſter*; Yet Sir *Francis Goodier*, upon that Debate in the Houſe of Commons, declared the Sentiments which I expreſs'd at the Beginning, *That he was not againſt Proceeding, but unſatisfy'd to do it without Witneſs, it being like ſwearing* in verba Magiſtri.

ANOTHER great Man, upon the ſame Queſtion, and an Anceſtor to a Noble Lord near me, ſaid, *That if the Parliament ſet aſide Law in this Caſe, we ſhould be happy to ſee Law declaring the Power of Parliaments.*

THE Puniſhment for Correſponding with the Earl, was High-Treaſon, and then Two poſitive Witneſſes were neceſſary to convict; But, in this Caſe, One *Corrupt*, *Terrified* and *Perjured* Perſon, may take away the Life of the moſt Innocent Man.

THERE is another great Misfortune which this Bill brings upon the Biſhop, which is, That he is incapable of receiving his Majeſty's Pardon: This, my Lords, is an Entrenchment upon the *Prerogative*: And what muſt make it the more ſevere in this Caſe, is, That His Majeſty's Inclinations to Mercy (which are the diſtinguiſhing Characters of his Life) are ſtopp'd by this Law, which the unfortunate Prelate might have Hopes of receiving, when he had merited it,

by

by a Dutiful Behaviour to the Country that had ſent him to wander Abroad in Exile, and by his future Conduct have confirm'd, if poſſible, the Evidence he has given of his Innocence.

MY LORDS, in the Caſe of the Earl of *Danby*, your Lordſhips have declared, That his Baniſhment ſhould be no Precedent, nor draw into Example for the Time to come, and have ſo enter'd it in your Journals.

IT has been proved, That this Reverend Prelate was at the Time that he was ſuſpected to be acting in Treaſon, engaged in Studies of the moſt high Nature, which is a Circumſtance that ought to have ſome Weight.

IF this Bill paſs into a Law, ſuch Evidence is eſtabliſh'd, and ſuch a Method of Proceeding introduc'd, as muſt effectually render all that is dear to us Precarious; and if ever, *hereafter*, we ſhould ſee a wicked Adminiſtration, ſupported by a Corrupt Majority in Parliament, this Step, taken in *theſe Times of Liberty*, will be a ſufficient Precedent to give a Colour of Juſtice to the Actions of thoſe who ſhould be wanton in Tyranny.

THE Reverend Prelate who ſpoke before me, mentions ſome Caſes relating to Bills of Attainder, which, in my poor Opinion, differ very much from our preſent Queſtion.

THE

THE Attainder of Sir *John Fenwick*, was only to ſupply the want of a Witneſs, who had depoſed againſt him upon Oath before the Grand Jury, and who was ſpirited away by the Priſoner's Friends: But at preſent, your Lordſhips are to ſupply the *Defect of Evidence*, by condemning on *improbable Conjecture*. There was a Noble Lord in this Houſe the other Day.——*I don't ſee him now!*——who made the *greateſt Figure* in Oppoſition to *that* Bill: I wiſh we could have *his* Aſſiſtance on *this* Occaſion.

MY LORDS, ſince that Reverend Prelate has quoted ſome Caſes, he will permit me to remind him what has been formerly ſaid upon Acts of Attainder; That ſuch Bills, like *Siſyphus*'s Stone, have frequently roll'd back upon thoſe that were the *chief Promoters* of them.

THIS *prudential* Argument, ſhould reſtrain us from being too forward with them at *this* Time of Day.

THE Act for the Attainder of the Earl of *March*, paſs'd, becauſe he had been inſtrumental in procuring the Attainder of another Lord, under Pretence of a Letter, which, the Record ſays, was no Evidence.

THE Lord *Cromwell* is another known Inſtance of this Obſervation: He was the firſt who adviſed this violent Proceeding in *Henry* the VIIIth's Time; and it is Remarkable, that the Advice he gave to the Ruin of *Others*, prov'd, not long after, fatal to *Himſelf*.

I HAVE

I HAVE now given your Lordſhips the Reaſons why I am againſt the Bill. I fear I have tired your Patience, and ſhall therefore conclude with the Words of the Great Man I before mentioned; I mean, Sir *Heneage Finch*, in the Caſe of the Earl of *Clarendon*. ——— " We have an Accuſation upon *Hearſay*, and " if it is not made good, the blackeſt Scandal Hell " can invent, lies at our Doors.

*F I N I S.*